

NEW

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1995

## MISSION NEWS

777 VALENCIA ST. • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110 • 695-8702 • VICTOR MILLER - EDITOR IN CHIEF



Myrna Godinez and Jennie Bacon are marching for a summer of peace (see story below). Photo by Eugene Kettner

HUD IMMIGRATION  
POLICY SHOCKERHOUSING AUTHORITY, NONPROFITS MUST  
VERIFY LEGAL STATUS OF FAMILIES

by Victor Miller

Court challenges will delay for a long time provisions of California's Proposition 187 that would make social service agencies verify the citizenship status of their clients. But effective June 19, a new federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulation will require providers of a wide range of subsidized housing to verify the citizenship status of their tenants. In San Francisco alone 5,000 to 10,000 occupants of HUD financed housing could lose all or a part of their housing subsidy if they fail to confirm household members are either citizens or legal immigrants. This could result in rent increases of 100% or more for some low-income families but these increases could probably be deferred for three years.

This HUD regulation, Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act (HCD 214), gives both public and private housing organizations policing responsibility and a direct relationship with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The policing power, which one housing activist called "our snitch jacket," will be almost identical in practice to certain portions of Proposition 187 but unlike 187, HCD Section 214 is national in scope. More significantly, since it was first passed in 1980, it has weathered fifteen years of bureaucratic and Congressional fine-tuning. It also survived a lawsuit begun in 1987. Attorney Jim Morales, who filed the suit for the Youth Law Center, gave little hope for further delays in the implementation of 214. "After seven and a half years, I think we've reached the end of the road," said Morales.

The legal fight resulted in some important modifications of the original HUD

regulations. For one thing, proof of citizenship will consist of a process called "self declaration." If someone declares in writing under penalty of perjury that they are a U.S. citizen, that constitutes proof of citizenship. The housing provider, a public agency such as the San Francisco Housing Authority or a private body such as Mission Housing Development Corporation, does not submit that declaration to the INS for further scrutiny. "When a person self declares, that's it. They don't have to do anything else," Morales said.

On the other hand, should a tenant claim one of six categories of legal immigrant status spelled out in the regulation, the housing provider must submit that claim to the INS for further investigation. If the INS rules against the claim then the household in question could, after a lengthy series of appeals and delays lasting three years or more, be denied further benefits. But delay and appeals protections may be irrelevant since a person who has given their name and address to the INS will probably not want to stay at that address for very long after officially being declared an illegal alien.

One administrator for Section 8 subsidized housing, with about 5,000 units city-wide, said that "those [who] aren't legal will just disappear." Like many of those in the housing field this administrator, who asked for anonymity, was stunned by the seemingly rapid turn of events. "I thought 187 was stuck in the courts, now we get it from the Feds."

HUD forms for compliance with 214 provisions have already arrived at the S.F. Housing Authority.

Daniel Hernandez, the Director Mission Housing Development Corporation, which has over 500 subsidized units in the Mission, did not see much hope of turning

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

REDEEMING THE  
MEAN STREETSINTERFAITH MARCH FOR PEACE REACHES  
OUT TO YOUTHS CAUGHT UP IN VIOLENCE

by Bob Parks

For the last several Fridays, there's been a quiet group of around 25 people following a route down Mission Street to 26th Street, then to the Bernal Dwelling housing projects, and finally ending near 24th and Alabama, a hangout for local gangs. Unlike tourists to the Mission, these folks go out of their way to find the most troubled areas in the neighborhood. They call themselves "The Interfaith March for Peace" and meet at 16th and Mission Streets every Friday at 7 pm.

The Interfaith March is an alliance of people from local churches concerned about violence among young people on the street. But their approach is decidedly against finger-wagging. "We don't push them," says Jenny Bacon, who helped start the walks. "I don't think you should put pressure on the kids. They have to decide for themselves." After witnessing the Peace Walk in Los Angeles, Bacon, a member of St. Peter's Church, wanted to start something like that in San Francisco's Mission District.

Manuel Felix, another organizer of the event and a youth leader at Mission Presbyterian Church, says their approach is simple. "We just walk along and ask, 'Can I pray for you?' We talk to folks on the street and kids that are involved with gangs, just to let them know someone is praying for them."

He says their reception has been positive. "A lot of the folks were happy about it. There were kids asking for prayer for themselves and for family members. We also offer them rosaries, pictures, or poems."

Former gang members and mothers of current gang members number among those who walk with the Interfaith March. Felix, who also works with RAP, the Real Alternatives Program, feels that understanding and prayer is the key to helping kids on the street.

Felix thinks that one way to make the situation worse in the community is to condemn it as unredeemable. "The other day [before the walk], Channel 2 did something terrible," he recalls. "They had a story about the Bernal Dwelling calling it the 'killing grounds.' While we were there, one of the boys walked out and said, 'Welcome to the killing grounds.' But he didn't say it in order to scare us or like he was proud. He was disappointed and hurt."

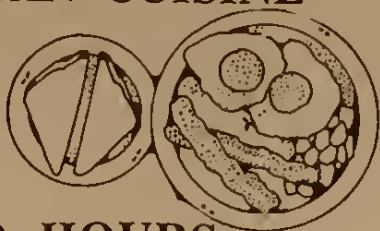
On an unseasonably cold Friday night, on Memorial Day Weekend Bacon walked with her friend, Myrna Godinez. Felix was out of town and several other people cancelled. It looked like they would be the only people on the March that night. Both women work at Juvenile Hall, so they said they would recognize many of the faces they would see on the route. "We want to do it every Friday, so the kids can get used to us and can see us as a community," says Bacon. "We want to see pastors from other churches--especially Spanish-speaking churches--come out or have someone come out."

This is just the beginning of the Interfaith Marches, according to Bacon. The group began in April and had their kick off the day before Mother's Day. In the future, they plan to march whether they have a large group or not. "The best thing is to walk with firm steps," she said.



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Carnaval Parade Awards 1995 Grand Champion Prize D'Midas Inter'l  
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Brazilian Champion: Batu Pitu **QUALE** directed by Kip Farris  
3rd Place (tie) Oju Oba **PASSION FOR PEACE** director Betho Filho w/ Aluadomar  
Fogo Na Roupa **FOGO'S DIVINE BUZIOS** directed by Carlos Aceituno



These photos and 3,000 more available at Mission One-Hour Photo (Mission 25th) 415/648-6698 Photographers: Paul Olszewski, Bruce Dantzer, Shatin Ayari, EVAD Damast, Allen Greeky, A. Paul Carlier

Brazilian Dance 1st(tie) Fogo Na Roupa Betho Filho and Oja Oba 2nd Batu Pitu 3rd Samba do Coracao Open Dance 1st D'Midas International 2nd Mas Makers Massive 3rd (tie) All Ah We, Caporales, Comparsa Viva Panama Brazilian Music 1st Betho Filho and Oju Oba 2nd Batu Pitu 3rd Fogo Na Roupa Open Music 1st Mas Makers Massive 2nd Masqued Revellers 3rd Oya Nike Cultural Center Brazilian Costume 1st Betho Filho and Oju Oba 2nd Batu Pitu 3rd Samba do Coracao Open Costume 1st D'Midas International 2nd Buena Vista School 3rd Bolivia Magica Brazilian Visual 1st Batu Pitu 2nd Fogo Na Roupa 3rd Samba do Coracao Open Visual 1st D'Midas International 2nd Mas Makers Massive 3rd (tie) All Ah We, Wise Fool Puppet Intervention Best Children 1st D'Midas International 2nd Mas Makers Massive 3rd Buena Vista School Giant Costume 1st Batu Pitu 2nd Mas Makers Massive 3rd Maqued Revellers Best Float 1st Batu Pitu 2nd Fogo Na Roupa 3rd Betho Filho and Oju Oba

Congratulations one and all, as the virtue lies in the journey not the prize. Judges awarded just 11 of 55 groups prizes. Awards at Cesar's 7pm Sun. 6/4 but just as number of BALLS grew so have awards including this Carnival countdown space next season 2/1/96 as we continue our glorious countdown to the new millenium. Till then remember Joy in the present. C.M. Collins

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The Mission District economy has been dealt yet another blow with the almost certain departure of the Lilli Ann Corporation, a nationally known garment manufacturing employing 150 people at its 16th and Harrison Street location. The employment needs of this community's burgeoning youth population increase daily, but so do the number of vacant storefronts along Mission Street. Meanwhile, many retailers and small manufacturers struggle to hold on for today, hoping that if tomorrow is not any better, perhaps it won't be any worse. The neighborhood knows all about hard times.

Yet in the last few years no issue has proved more controversial or divisive than how to make the Mission more prosperous. Some economic development projects have been launched and look promising, others died on the drawing board and one is in suspended animation (tying up nearly \$2 million).

Most of the action happened in last three years. Beginning in late 1992 the Mayor's Taskforce on the Mission, that at the time consisted of people appointed by former Mayor Art Agnos, tangled with the Jordan administration over plans for the development of the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). In the Spring of 1993 Jordan purged most of the Taskforce members replacing them with his own caucus. About that same time, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development began to float proposals to turn most of the NEMIZ into a Bioscience Industry only zone. Environmental controls were to be pretty much tossed out to attract potential gene splicers and mutant makers. The community which has seldom agreed on anything, agreed on one thing: they didn't want it. Nevertheless an entire year of very loud and nasty public meetings were necessary to defeat the Bioscience scheme.

In 1994 just as the uproar over Bioscience had died down, some community and arts groups tried to bring the Redevelopment Agency into the Mission. The subsequent clash of pro and con for-

ces was of legendary unpleasantness even by Mission standards. This year the Agency which had things to do elsewhere went elsewhere and did them.

The current attempt to get the Mission economy rolling is called the Enterprise Community (EC). The EC differs from most other programs in that its scope and content are determined by boards elected by the community itself. So far, economic and community development programs have received the lion's share of their

Nationally, this is part of a Clinton Administration initiative to re-invent government which is being carried out on a much larger scale in other cities. A more full-blooded version of the EC, the Urban Empowerment Zone has been established in six areas around the nation, including Los Angeles and Baltimore. The empowerment zones received approximately \$100 million each with substantial tax credits. A third entity the Enhanced Enterprise Community,

Spread over six neighborhoods, \$14 million isn't all that much but the political climate is probably right for the EC to become the model for future. Larry Delcarlo, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) sees the EC as "a fundamental change in the relationship between government and communities."

According to Delcarlo, MOCD faces up to a 50% cut in its federal allotment in the coming year and a harder attitude towards MOCD mismanagement by funded agencies is beginning to show. For example, Mission Community Legal Defense, which provided affordable legal services for over 20 years, was recently defunded by MOCD to the tune of \$160,000. The organization's problems of debt acquisition and unpaid taxes are not unheard of in the nonprofit world. In the past, though, remedial actions would not have been so severe. MOCD has been the cornerstone of funding for a broad range of social service agencies in poorer communities and thereby made it possible for these agencies to promote liberal/progressive political agenda at the grassroots level.

If, as some observers believe, the EC is the way of the future--that agenda is likely to change. In the Mission a representative and an alternate from each of three constituencies--businesses, residents and nonprofits--will represent the neighborhood on the city-wide board, all must be residents of the Mission.

This is a different ball game, which naturally has many people feeling uncomfortable. But, there are good reasons for favoring residents and the more inclusive structure. For one thing, the constant fighting among these groups has benefitted no one. Secondly, a more publicly accountable process for the use of tax supported projects is long overdue.

One example of how a lack of accountability has been pernicious is the Mission Armory Foundation. Eight years after \$1.4 million

was earmarked for economic development in the Mission (due to bank interest it is now \$1.8 million), yet not one cent has gone into the community. The eleven nonprofit organizations who compose the Mission Armory Foundation control this money. They have long since abandoned plans to buy the decaying Mission Armory. But they haven't been able to decide how else to spend it, either.

Kent Sims who oversees this project for the City told the NEWS, "The Armory Foundation has been given a deadline to come up with an approvable program or the City will take funds back." Let's hope they don't just divide it up among themselves.

Continued next month.

# \$ \$ \$

## IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID!

### AN ONGOING REPORT ON THE ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY AND RELATED MATTERS

By Victor Miller

public funding through federal Community Development Block Grants administered through the Mayor's Office.

While CBDGs have produced some remarkably good work, most notably in the area of affordable housing, decreasing federal allocations have intensified competition for this money both between and within communities. The Enterprise Community in San Francisco will work differently. An 18-member board composed of three representatives from each of six neighborhoods (the Mission, the Tenderloin, South of Market, Chinatown, Hunters Point and Visitation Valley), will decide how to use \$14 million in federal funds with the emphasis on cooperation.

receives more money than the Enterprise Community but less than the Empowerment Zone. The City of Oakland has been awarded Enhanced Enterprise Community status. At all three levels, the common denominator is local planning bodies who, instead of simply administering prepackaged federal programs, design their own economic development strategies.

In San Francisco this process began at a series of public forums in 1994 where communities prepared "wish lists" of projects they would like to see undertaken. Naturally, these proposals from six very needy districts vastly exceeded the eventual \$14 million in cash and "in kind" services that became available. Consequently, a fine-tuning process is currently underway to focus on attainable goals.

The Mission "wish list" alone includes jobs for youth, lead paint removal from older buildings, incubator programs for business, family intervention programs for substance abuse and a host of other good ideas for which there is only so much money. The final meeting to shape the Mission proposal will be on June 20 at 6:30 pm at Horace Mann School; it should be lively.

Once each neighborhood has its priorities set, the city-wide EC Board will meet and formulate the overall plan for San Francisco in late June or early July.



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## LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL

The 19th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, showcasing 229 titles from 16 countries, takes place June 9-18 at SF's Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., and Victoria Theatre, 2961 Sixteenth St. The world's largest event of its kind, this year's festival features 34 local works, and offers audiences a global look at new queer cinema.

THE INCREDIBLE TRUE ADVENTURE OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE, a romantic comedy by Maria Maggenati, and Barry Shils' cross-dressing extravaganza, WIGSTOCK: THE MOVIE are the festival's opening night films. World premieres include Todd Verow's FRISK, based on Dennis Cooper's story of sex & sadism, and FANCI'S PERSUASION, an energetic comedy from Bay Area filmmaker Charles Herman-Wurmfeld. The festival also turns onto

the information superhighway with "Cyberstroika," a digital array in the multimedia arena, and highlights from the Festival catalog will be available through The Worldwide Web.

The Festival's Frameline Award, presented each year for significant achievement in lesbian and gay media, goes this year to Marcus Hu, producer of THE LIVING END, GRIEF, SUPER 8 1/2, and Todd Verow's FRISK.

Advance tickets are available from BASS Ticket Centers throughout the Bay Area. The Festival is presented by Frameline, a Bay Area non-profit organization. For ticket information, please call (415)776-1999 or (510)762-BASS. For additional info, contact Frameline at (415)703-8650 or frameline@aol.com (e-mail).







## BREAKING THE CONTRACT



The May 6th march and rally against the "Contract with America" drew nearly 15,000. Demonstrators gathered in Dolores Park where before proceeding to Civic Center, they heard Jesse Jackson (above) and others denounce the policies of the 104th Congress. Photo by Monet.

## POSTED!!



The New Mission News would like to congratulate Victor Ibarra who, four years ago began a campaign to have his business, the Mail Carrier (on 21st between Mission and Valencia), become the site of a contract postal station. Ibarra, pictured above with employees Claudia Martinez and Imelda Manzanarez, won the fight. He now offers customers all the features of a post office plus stationary supplies, faxing and a variety of business and home office services. If you haven't heard about this until now, good, because so far the Mail Carrier lacks one thing every other post office has - lines.

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I HOPE HE KNOWS! THEN THIS PLACE WOULD REALLY BE HEAVENLY.

## CULTURAL UPHEAVAL

At press time the Mission Cultural Center was closed to the public following the firing of executive director Bob Carrillo and managing director Alicia Rodriguez by the Cultural Center's Board of Directors. Locks were changed on the doors and Carrillo, staff members and volunteers were refused access to building by the San Francisco Police Department who had been called in by the Board. At least one woman was arrested after an verbal exchange with security guards. The News has recieved the following letter:

### OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

We the staff, artists and community members of the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts sec the present extreme measures taken by the Board of Directors as illegal and an outright violation of our trust. We feel the measure is ill-timed due to the fact that this is the most crucial moment in the funding cycle and we are bound to loose precious funds that we have so diligently been working on for the last two years.

Therefore we demand that a transitional Executive Committee be established with personalities from the community to provide for the formation of a new board that more accurately represent the needs of the community.

In view of the present position of the funding cycle, we demand that Bob Carrillo and Alicia Rodriguez be re-instated to follow-up and complete the grant application process. As for their objective evaluation, procedures should be established on behalf of the new board, for a later date that does not jeopardize the already precarious financial situation.

We demand the center be re-opened to the community within 48 hours.

Signators include: Martivon Galindo, artist; Jorge Mejia, staff member; Calixto Robles, MCC Artist-in-Residence, Jose Alvarado, artist; Romeo G. Osorio MCC board member; Jorge Argueta, poet; Alejandro Murgia, writer; Jack Hirschman, poet/painter; Barbara Jameson, writer, Oscar Rivera, MCC volunteer and artist; Miguel Perez MCC building manager, Mario Joel artist.



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the

Grassroots

report



By: D. Michael Spero

FOR A SUMMER OF PEACE

So far, so good. As the Harper's Index would put it: "Total youth killings in the Mission this year: 0." Mission business owners know that every shot fired on the streets is a shot through the heart of the local economy. Violence, and the perception of violence frighten investors, entrepreneurs and potential customers. It's a vicious cycle: violence destroys jobs, and lack of jobs breeds more violence.

Give the youth and the peace movement some credit for slowing the cycle, though. Most credit goes to the young people who struggle to change youth culture and attitudes. (A good example is Roberto Alfaro, whose writing is often published in New Mission News.) Dedicated adults have made an impact, too, getting involved to improve the lives of our kids. A partial list of new programs for youth: new recreation programs at Mission Playground and a couple of schoolyards; the Mission Youth Soccer League is expanding; Casa de Jovenes at Mission Recreation Center has a variety of neat programs, including the popular Midnight Shakespeare. Youth for Service has programs in auto and computer repair that lead to actual jobs for their graduates. Horizons Unlimited has been hiring youth for summer employment. Workers in RAP's Calles program get out on the street to talk with youth, as do a couple of neighborhood groups.

We have a long way to go, though, because summer is coming, with its dangerous combination of warmer weather and no school. (As of this writing, there hasn't actually been any warm weather, but even fog has to take a couple of days of off now and then, doesn't it?) Young people will have a lot more time on their hands and significantly fewer things to do. It's up to residents, youth, service providers and businesses to help keep the cycle of violence from picking up steam.

One thing neighbors can do is familiarize ourselves with opportunities that are available to youth, and spread the information. I carry copies of promotional flyers from employment and recreation programs when I'm out in the neighborhood. When I see people looking bored or unemployed, I ask them if they're interested in job training or whatever I've got information on. I give them a copy of the flyer. It's a form of cooperation between residents and non-profits, who often need help getting the word out about their programs. (I'll share: write me at 858 York Street, SF, CA 94110 Phone 415-

826-7944.) Neighbors can also spend some evening time at a park, schoolyard, or playground, maybe bringing some drinks, snacks, sports equipment or a game. Adult presence can help keep things cool. Just getting out of the house, walking around or sitting on the steps can help, but you can also take advantage of more formal volunteering opportunities. Although some Mission nonprofits discourage volunteers, many programs enthusiastically accept them.

If you're interested, contact me, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth (2601 Mission St., Phone 641-4362,) San Francisco Volunteer Bureau (1160 Battery, Phone 982-8999,) or your nearest church or recreation program. Mission churches are pledging to get more involved this summer, opening their facilities occasionally for youth programs.

If we could just have a year of no youth murders, we could publicize that our community is safer and our kids are saner. The improved business climate thus created could help put us on an upward economic cycle. We'll sorely need that improved economy, because Republican cuts in food stamps, welfare, earned income credits and social programs will put an enormous strain on this community. With this war on the poor in progress, we need to work together to keep this community livable for everyone.

BEYOND LEAD PAINT

People Organized to Demand Environmental Rights (PODER), the Mission's environmental justice group, is moving beyond their three year anti-lead poisoning campaign. They've been out polling nearly 500 families door-to-door to find out their concerns. Unsurprisingly, crime, drugs and gangs rated near the top of the list, with economic issues also getting some mention. They unveiled the results at an April 26 meeting, and came up with some interesting ideas.

PODER will explore the possibility of organizing among prostitutes, runaways, drug users and others associated with high crime rates as perpetrators or victims, to see how some of their needs can be met in legal ways. They'll also be surveying providers of youth services, compiling information on what they do, identifying areas where more effort is needed. The next general meeting is Sat. June 10 at 11AM at 474 Valencia Street. Or call them at 431-4210

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The astounding revelation that there is \$30 million in uncollected business tax right here in San Francisco has unleashed a new flurry of finger pointing which falls unfairly on small business, self-employed and freelance workers. The problems might just lie with the unwieldy registration forms and fees and the honest inability of many entrepreneurs to raise the lump sums demanded.

Unfortunately, small business and self-employed people have no union, no unemployment compensation, no regular paycheck, no health benefits, no credit and no assistance from the government--short of welfare--and that only with only the greatest effort. Self-employed people are generally hard-working individualists whose quiet determination to be self-sufficient is admirable, even heroic in many ways. Sometimes it pays off, but more often, sadly, the efforts of years of work and sacrifice are met with the inevitable tax lien and bankruptcy.

Small business and self-employed people are hit harder by The City imposed taxes such as the flat business surcharge tax. Such a regressive tax, which was im-

posed "one time only" by solemn promise from all politicians involved, not only represents the bad faith of our local leaders when they imposed it, but every year demonstrates their disdain of public trust as they renew it. A tax which falls as heavily on the CEO of Chevron as it does on the man who shines his shoes is reprehensible, but its yearly renewal only increases the disregard conscientious taxpayers hold for such obligations.

Even the "Tax Amnesty" program was pointless to cash-poor business taxpayers. It served mainly larger firms who could raise large amounts in a short period of time, but left troubled small businesses, who really needed it, without any help.

With time payment plans, realistic incentives and the end of unfair regressive taxes, the burden on small businesses and self-employed people could result in more taxes for The City's coffers and an improved quality of life for many thousands of San Franciscans--whose only wish is to make [it] on their own.

Thank You,

Doug Comstock, Secretary-Treasurer Small Business & Self-Employed Alliance

Dear Editor:

The "Committee to Save Historic Chavez Street" makes two erroneous assumptions about the campaign to save Army Street (Letters, April 27).

First, several hundred San Franciscans from throughout The City--including many Mission District residents--have called us at 552-2363 to join the effort to overturn the Board of Supervisors' short-sighted act. Our campaign to place an initiative on the November ballot clearly has struck a chord with many San Franciscans who are disgusted by our elected officials' lack of common sense and politically motivated decision-making process.

Second, our opposition to the name change is largely for practical and financial reasons. The cost for Army Street residents and businesses to comply with

the name change will be several hundred thousand dollars, at a minimum. While residents have little recourse to recover these costs, some businesses have said they will pass them on to consumers through higher prices. Other businesses, viewing the name change as the latest sign of an unsympathetic government, have said they will leave The City, eliminating jobs and tax revenue.

There also are costs The City will inevitably incur besides those associated with installation of street signs, and which the Board of Supervisors has disingenuously failed to include in their "total" budget. So all Mission District residents--not just those on Army Street--will pay a price for the name change.

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# mission broadsider

by andy solow

## THE 23RD AND TREAT ST. PARK...

Thanks to the cooperation of the Citizens' Open Space Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Park Commission, more than \$1.5 million dollars is currently being held in escrow for the acquisition, development and construction of this new facility. Thanks to the excellent work of Park Planner Marvin Yee, the preliminary design for this new park and children's playground was quickly completed and approved by the community more than six months ago.

Unfortunately, back in March, I discovered that this project has been on hold because of a leaky underground fuel tank since February. After talking to most of the people involved in this toxics controversy, I decided to obtain copies of some of the pertinent documents and review them myself.

## WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE

When an underground fuel storage tank is removed soil samples are taken from the bottom of the tank pit, a "chain of custody" is created for the old tank and the soil samples, and a report is written. The report is supposed to be available for public inspection and copying. The Regional Water Quality Control Board was willing to let me look at the report, but tank reports are only available for inspection on Thursdays in Oakland. They suggested that I contact the Local Oversight Program (LOP) in San Francisco.

Cherie C. D'Andrea, the Director of the (LOP) and Stephanie Cushing, the case manager for this particular toxic site told me that I would have to pay just to look at the tank report. The form that she asked me to fill out, "Request for research of public records maintained by the Hazardous Materials Division, Local Oversight Program" says:

"The fee, pursuant to (Health Code) of San Francisco Municipal Code, Article 21, Sec. 1176, is set at \$85.00 per hour. The hour begins at the time the requestor signs-in and concludes when all files have been returned to the front desk. Photocopies of up to 5 single pages will be made free of charge. If additional copies are needed, it is suggested that the requestor either employs a copying company or brings his/her own machine. A re-filing fee of 1/10 of an hour will also be charged for each file pulled. Payment by check is required at the conclusion of the file review, and there will be no exceptions!"

When I insisted that the "Sunshine Ordinance" prohibited fees of this type, D'Andrea and Cushing demanded that I leave their office. I insisted they call their superiors and ten minutes later, D'Andrea slammed a copy of the gas tank report on the desk in front of me. I paid \$5.00, cash.

Since removal of this site from the State's leaking underground tank list is technically at the discretion of D'Andrea and Cushing, all I can say is that we will be lucky if anybody ever gets to build anything at 23rd and Treat.

## THE TANK REPORT

According to a tank removal report prepared by Environmental Services Inc. dated November 4, 1992, two 500 gallon underground fuel tanks, 3' 10" in diameter and 7' long, were removed from under the sidewalk on the Treat Street side of the site on October 16, 1992. Soil samples taken from 2' below the bottom of the tank pit contained relatively high levels of gasoline, as high as 5,130 parts per million (ppm). According to the report, "the excavated soil has been placed on site pending waste profiling and the selection of proper disposal methods." An inspection of the site revealed that the tank pit has been filled and the sidewalk has been repaired.

## "HOW CLEAN IS CLEAN ENOUGH?"

The current owner of the property, the Local Oversight Program for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the City have been arguing about what level of toxic waste testing must be done at a site before the site can be removed from the State's leaking underground tank list and the title for the property can be transferred to the City.

According to Will Bruhns, Senior Engineer with the Regional Water Quality Control Board: "If a site has less than 100 ppm of gasoline in the soil, it should have a very low priority. 5,000 ppm is a significant number. The law requires that the site be cleaned up to the satisfaction of the lead agency; but the law doesn't specify how clean is clean enough because conditions vary so much between sites."

In this case, the lead agency is the Local Oversight Program (LOP) which is funded by the City and County of San Francisco through the Department of Public Health (DPH). The LOP has a contract with the State. LOP staff keep track of their hours by site and the State bills the owners of the site being cleaned up for their time. The Regional Board's role is to work with the local program to provide technical assistance. The Regional Board and the LOP are currently monitoring 540 leaking underground tank sites in San Francisco to make sure that the clean-ups meet State standards.

Without seeing the report, the main question is how much gasoline is still down there? There are less expensive testing options other than soil and ground water sampling such as reconnaissance sampling for soil gasses. If the property owner is dissatisfied with the LOP's decision, the law allows for an appeal to the State Water Quality Control Board. But, the regional staff has on occasion done a technical review of local decisions."

According to Stanley DeSousa, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Department of Public Works, the site history and the soil geology should be researched before any testing for toxics begins. "We want it done right", said DeSousa.

According to Jim Carbone, the Seller's broker, "There is sincere interest on the part of both parties to complete this transaction. The issues revolve around responsibility for testing and remediation." The City wants to use a "preferred vendor" approved by the Human Rights Commission which is more expensive than just hiring an engineering contractor who pays prevailing wages and is licensed and insured.

According to Stephen Rexrode, vice president of Real Estate Asset Specialists, representing the seller, the City is asking that an extremely thorough testing regiment be performed at the seller's expense and that the Seller advance the cost of the testing. Rexrode says that the sellers are broke and they want the cost of testing to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale. Rexrode feels that the City's \$60,000 toxics testing plan is too expensive; but, to date the Seller has failed to hire an independent toxics consultant and propose an alternative testing proposal.

The City refused to give me a copy of their proposed toxics testing plan because "disclosure of that information could affect the negotiations for the purchase of the subject property."

According to Deputy City Attorney Elaine Warren, because the site was the former home of the San Francisco Materials Company, a seller of building materials, it is possible that there may be other toxic contaminants present on the site. Warren indicated that the true value of the property cannot be determined until the entire site is thoroughly tested for toxics, not just the area where the fuel tanks were removed. "This has been a particularly difficult negotiation because the

property owner doesn't have much money." When I raised the specter of the City exercising eminent domain, Warren laughed and said: "That wouldn't make the deal move any faster."

According to Harry Quinn, Assistant Director of Property for the City & County of San Francisco Real Estate Department, the City made the Seller an offer and the seller never responded in writing. Quinn indicated that if the seller didn't like the City's plan for toxic testing, the seller could present an alternative plan

and the City would consider it. According to Quinn, at press time, the City was still trying to finalize an agreement with all parties.

According to SF Bureau of Environmental Health Inspector John Hurley,

"The owners of 3070 - 3090 23rd Street were cited for maintaining a public nuisance on May 16, 1995. The citation specifies overgrown vegetation, garbage, and refuse accumulation including used hypodermic needles."

At press time the cite had been completely cleaned up; but, as long as this site is a vacant lot, it won't take long for the weeds to grow back and the bad guys to cut more holes in the fence. Hopefully, somebody will collect all of the people involved in this real estate transaction and lock them in a little room together until they can figure out how to move forward. It would be nice if the residents of this neighborhood could recreate in the 23rd and Treat Street Park before the year 2000.

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# GANGSPEAK



## HOW I ENDED UP AT DOWNTOWN

by Aide Picazo

While I was in 8th grade, attending the right high school was about the most important thing to me. When the time came for me to graduate from middle school and go on to high school, I decided to go to Mission High. Although Mission had its bad reputation, it didn't discourage me from going there. I figured that my sister went there and she graduated without any problems, so I could too--I was wrong. I began to hang out with the wrong crowd. They persuaded me to cut class to go hang out and do nothing. I began to flunk my classes. I even had to go to school during the summer session.

I didn't realize until that summer that in order for me to get away from the crowd at Mission, I was going to have to transfer schools. I decided to transfer to John O'Connel. There was no special reason why I went there; maybe there might have been a reason. I transferred to O'Connel, though I hate to admit it, because a certain guy made want to go there. I regret it now because that was a very stupid reason. Anyway, I was enrolled in the "re-entry program" there. I was placed in that program by mistake. Re-entry programs are for students who have dropped out of school, which I hadn't done yet. I stayed in the same class all day. It was a waste of time for me. I took classes that I had

already taken and had passed both at Mission and summer school.

I was at O'Connel for a couple of months when again I fell into the hands of the wrong crowd. After a couple of months I ended up dropping out of school for about two weeks, but it sure felt like two days. Two weeks spent doing nothing but wasting time.

Only three months were left of my sophomore year. I knew I had to do something quick. I didn't want to be a drop-out for the rest of my life. I had heard that Downtown High was a continuation school. I wanted to continue my education, so I knew Downtown would be good for me. I got all the paperwork done and in no time I began to attend Downtown High.

I haven't had any problems with hanging out with the wrong crowd at this school. I've realized that I should not let the wrong crowd influence me.

This year I graduate from high school. I feel relieved and very proud of myself. After four years in three different schools, I've come to learn many things. Until this day I am still learning new things. I do regret all the times I have cut school. I don't feel it was worth it. They say your high school years are supposed to be the most memorable years of your life. I have many good memories of my high school years but at the same time I have many bad ones. The most important thing is that I made it.

## Neighborhood

by Cesar Diaz

He was told to get out but he did not listen, the last thing he heard was the bullets hissing.

He told himself lies about those drive-bys, but too late to realize he slowly dies.

Around his body his homeboys stand without a word the revenge is planned.

"For Our Homeboys," they said then everyone knows another is dead.

Revenge is the game, no one's to blame?

**Gang members:** This is your column. This is your voice. Send your words, poems, rap songs and art to: Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor for Gangspeak, c/o New Mission News, 777 Valencia Street, S.F., CA 94110 or call Deanne at 864-6531; pager: 227-6338. Gangspeak wants to thank Ms. Ricard's class at Downtown High School for sending us material for the column.

## IMMIGRATION SHOCKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

things around. "It looks like our role is to soften the blow," he said. Asked what he thought of the new relationship that will be established between housing providers and the INS, Hernandez said, "It's the wrong linkage to be creating, it provides every opportunity to violate people's rights."

Luz Buitrago, a housing rights attorney with the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, was concerned the new HUD rules would send the wrong signals to private landlords. "Private landlords should not be asking tenants for their immigration status. While there is still no case law, fair housing advocates strongly believe that this would violate both state and federal fair housing laws," Buitrago said. Landlord harassment of Latino tenants around issues of green cards and legal status has been a constant problem according to Buitrago.

With the June 19 deadline quickly approaching, housing and tenant activists are frantically trying to get up to speed on the implications of the new hand of cards dealt to them by HUD. Unlike the campaign against Prop. 187 the timeline is in weeks--not years--since almost none of the usually astute San Francisco housing groups, including the Council of Community Housing Organizations had anything but a vague awareness of Section 214 before mid-May of this year.

One saving grace for families in subsidized housing is that in the course of a decade and a half of alterations the regulations have become fairly complex. They have developed some very specific language to protect, as much as possible, mixed family situations where some but not all family members can document legal residency. There are also provisions for "reasonable extension of submission of evidence" and a special exemption for non-citizens 62 years or older. In other words, things will proceed on a case-by-case basis.

Residents of HUD subsidized housing, specifically those in Section 8, 235 and 236 as well as HODAG and Indian Housing programs should consult with an appropriate legal service agency to get a professional assessment of what the new rules mean for them. San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation is a good place to start, 415-627-0200; or contact the S.F. BAR Association.

A final hardnosed paragraph of Section 214 states that a "family is responsible for reimbursing HUD for any assistance improperly paid because of intentional misrepresentation of eligible status" and encourages such cases to be turned over to the HUD Inspector General's Office. Unwilling, though they may be, workers and administrators in the affordable housing industry have been signed up for the hunt for the undocumented.

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Last month, in their usual hysterical manner, The San Francisco Bay Guardian, whose offices are in the Mission, chose to attack the integrity of this publication and this writer. If I understand them correctly, the cause of their displeasure is my failure to interject the Guardian's political bias into a news story I wrote on a meeting between Mark Mosher, the executive director of the Committee on JOBS, and Mitch Salazar, the executive director of the Real Alternatives Program.

The Guardian was especially choleric about the fact that actual statements made by Mosher appeared in the article. Mosher presents a fairly articulate case for San Francisco big business interests (which was evident from what he said); the Guardian despises him for it and evidently believes their litany of complaints about JOBS should be parroted anywhere and everywhere JOBS is mentioned.

Now I'm not going to get all self-righteous and insist that New Mission News is the sanctum of "objective" reporting but last time I checked, I was still the boss around here and I didn't sign a loyalty oath to follow anybody's party line. If there's going to be any slant to the reporting, I'll roll my own, thank you. I do promise our readers that any spin put on a story will be done so deftly, and not in the crude and ham handed Guardian style.

The Guardian's attack on the News is a continuation of a broader program to silence the opposition voices of community supported neighborhood newspapers, who have refused to reiterate the political views of Guardian Publisher-

tor-Lite Bruce Brugman. It is just another episode in an obsessive and malicious campaign of censorship by defamation waged by a once inspired publication that is now firmly in the grip of megalomania. It has, until now, been my policy to mostly ignore the Guardian's Neo-McCarthy buffoonery, since it has been so ineffectual in altering the editorial outlook of any of the papers targeted in the smear. I am responding this time because the Guardian's record of gutlessness in regards to coverage of the Mission is so glaringly obvious from this latest escapade.

## SIN ALMA A RESPONSE TO THE SF BAY GUARDIAN

BY VICTOR MILLER

And a pretty sorry record it is.

When Guardian crony and anointed candidate for Mayor Richard Hongisto rounded up hundreds of peaceful and more than a few innocent bystanders during the Rodney King demonstrations, the Guardian was remarkably silent. Hongo was their fair haired boy and they didn't have the stones to say he'd gone round the bend. The Police Commission meeting held in the Mission a few months later where Hongo was pretty much chased out of the neighborhood also drew scant Guardian coverage.

When the City tried shredding environmental protection to ram a bioscience zone into the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone, where the Guardian of-

fices are located, the community appeals to the Guardian to pay at least some attention to the issue fell on deaf ears for nearly a year, by which time massive grassroots opposition had already pretty much defeated the project.

A less heinous but nonetheless telling incident occurred in the summer of 1994 when Sprint precipitously fired 150 Latina workers who were about to vote on unionization. The Guardian had initially slated a photo of a demonstration by the Sprint workers, on the coveted page three spot, but dumped it for a self promoting picture of Chris Isaak signing autographs

at a Guardian sponsored awards ceremony. The workers appeared on page three the following week; such are the priorities of the champion of progressive politics.

The headline for the JOBS/RAP story last month was "JOBS VISITS THE HOOD". It was intentionally almost identical to the "JOBS IN THE HOOD" headline the Guardian ran about a year ago in an article denouncing eleven neighborhood papers as corporate dupes. I was curious to see, once the stimulus was given, which of the Pavlovian attack dogs would be first out of the kennel. I expected some sneering, condescending line or two at the bottom of a column about my political incorrectness.

Since I still hold out some hope for the Guardian, I also expected that there would be some attention paid to what I regarded as the most salient fact in the otherwise pedestrian article: in the gang war that has waxed and waned in the Mission for some time now, 39 young people have died. The Guardian has showed a sustained spinelessness in ignoring this story. The nearly half a page they devoted to my stylistic imperfections as a journalist was more space than they've given to the desperate plight of our community's youth in the last three years.

When earlier this year the two daily papers began OJ-style coverage of a rape trial involving a Mission District gang and provided no balancing reports on anti-violence efforts by hundreds of Mission kids, the Guardian remained silent and therefore complicit in this racist demonization of youth. Like all the other mainstream press they failed to cover the two Youth Summits no matter how many press releases or phone calls they received from the young people who organized these events.

These things may be of no importance to the Guardian but they are supremely important to the people who live here, who are terrified that they may see their children die here. There is an obligation on the part of all of us who live or do business in the Mission to respond to this central and relentless tragedy, to reclaim that part of our humanity which we lose when we live in a climate of violence. If the Bay Guardian is unable or unwilling to meet that obligation, then it has become little more than a cowardly and crotchety-driven receptacle of popular culture, lost in its own soullessness.

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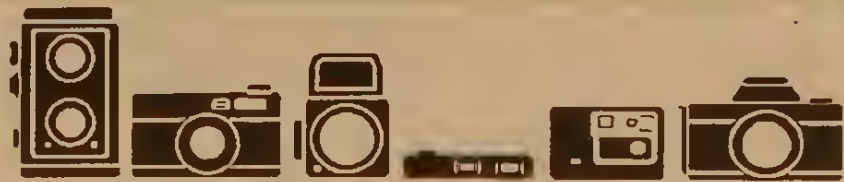
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# SNAP SHOTS

By Robin Snyderman

as inspired by Snap the Wonder Dog

A few years ago, Snap and I had the pleasure of spending time with an inspiring and complicated man during a critical transition in his life. We met him on the day he decided to sacrifice his German Shepherd for stable housing.

### DOG PACKS VERSUS SKID ROW

Steve had been homeless for nearly a year before adopting the pup. He'd been diagnosed with a terminal illness, yet found that spending his \$345 welfare check on dog and people food provided more security and self-respect than eating in soup kitchens for free, and blowing all \$345 on rent at a rundown hotel. It wasn't the soup kitchens that vexed him. It was those depressing hotels, where he and other welfare recipients would spend up to 28 cold and comfortless nights at a time, before being kicked out by a languid landlord, diligently working to deny them tenants rights. He was never interviewed for tenancy, asked to sign a rental agreement, or engaged in any meaningful dialogue with hotel staff. He'd just walk through the door, hand them all his cash, and receive a key to a room upstairs.

Often, Steve didn't even last a week in one of these rooms. His immune system was failing, and the faulty plumbing and ventilation systems were harder on his health than was a sleeping bag in the hills above the beach at Fort Funston. If he had to share dirty toilets, he opted for organic dirt and bushes.

Besides, Steve was committed to his new-found sobriety. He longed for a supportive community, but the dominant culture in most of these hotels focused solely upon alcohol and drugs.

When he found his dog, Steve also found a sense of stability, joy and responsibility that he never gleaned from social services, friends or relatives, drink or drugs. He expected to live out his final days at the beach with what he felt was his first real comrade, albeit a four-legged one. He joked that the dog actually attracted good people his way. Eventually, the two moved into a drug-free squat in a vacant warehouse South of Market. One of his three new "roommates" introduced Steve to a tutor, who later helped him get a high school diploma, health benefits and the bottom place on a waiting list for decent housing.

This was the day that Snap and I first met Steve. We were working at one of the few residential hotels in the City that is owned by a non-profit agency, that provides permanent and supportive housing, that respects not only a tenant's rights but also the quality of tenant lives. I'm not sure which shocked Steve more -- that a housing provider and a few of the tenants were interested in "interviewing" him for tenancy (in talking with him about community and independent living skills, for example, as opposed to simply asking to see his money) -- or that Snap the Wonder Dog was laying beside his chair, her nose on his feet as we spoke.

Six months later, when Steve's name rose to the top of the waiting list, he entrusted his friends at the warehouse with the German Shepherd, accepting our rationale behind prohibiting dogs from multi-unit hotels. (Snap was an office dog, not a resident.) After Steve moved into the building, he walked the Wonder Dog religiously, and participated fully in the life of the housing community. The dominant culture didn't revolve around drugs, but rather the decisions and programs of the Tenant Association. Steve assumed a leadership role in organizing floor dinners each month. He was a regular at Friday night movies, and attended those workshops and Tenant Board meetings which interested him. He held down a job at the local shelter, before

his health got the best of him.

I don't think he ever stopped missing his dog, but Steve's difficult choice was not one he ever regretted.

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The Board of Supervisors Chambers, on May 23rd, were overflowing with welfare recipients and tenant advocates committed to preserving a person's right to choose. The subject was the Mandatory Direct Rent Program. The issue, as explained by Jordan Administration representatives, is that City money is inefficiently spent when countless residential hotels suffer high vacancy rates while welfare recipients sleep in shelters which were established to target people receiving no public benefits.

But the Government Efficiency and Labor Committee of the Board (Supervisors Hallinan, Ammiano and Teng) recognized that these hotel do not suffer high vacancy rates and rapid turn-over because G.A. recipients don't want housing, but rather because of the intolerable living accommodations in most of these hotels. Speaker after speaker described these conditions in gruesome detail, and the Supervisors unanimously supported a Resolution drafted by Supervisor Hallinan, which could indefinitely delay the implementation of this ill-conceived program.

Among the supporters of Hallinan's Resolution was the Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO), which represents 25 community-based housing developers and tenant advocates. When the City first sent out a Solicitation of Interest for an agency willing to administer the Mandatory Program for \$750,000 a year, CCHO responded with a two-page letter outlining why it "objects to a mandatory program for practical, legal and ethical reasons." In this austere era, why would struggling non-profits, when hearing of \$750,000 available, band together to say "no thanks?" *Because the issue isn't whether homeless people need a mandate to choose housing over homelessness. The issue whether or not adequate housing is available. It is not.*

Steve's story, like those of other residents who waited for months to secure decent affordable housing, demonstrates that you can decrease the numbers of people sleeping outdoors by creating better opportunities for people to sleep indoors *without* a mandatory program. If City money were spent transforming slums into stable housing, then homeless people would choose to fill up the vacancies.

### OTHER HUMANE DECISIONS

On May 26th, Snap the Wonder Dog succeeded from her long battle with canine cancer. Her people ensured her another choice with which humans are battling -- the choice to say when it's time to go, and to do so with your loved ones and integrity present. Her death was so humane and peaceful. People deserve the same option.

Now that she's gone, the trick for me will be to remember her spirit by herding together the good people and practices she attracted to our lives, and to contribute as loyally and joyfully to my community as she did.

Nonetheless, I think it may be time to sit down, roll over and call this column quits. Just in case this is the final "Snapshots," thanks to those of you who've read and responded. Snap and I had a lot of fun pawing (I mean pounding) it out on the computer





# BOOK MARKS

## MISSION BEST SELLERS

If there is nothing like a good book, then similarly there is nothing quite like a good bookstore. Imagine North Beach without City Lights Bookstore or the Inner Richmond without Green Apple Books. Places like Bound Together in the Haight and Moe's and Cody's in Berkeley are more than just good places to get hard to find books. These stores are barometers of the intellectual vitality and soul of a neighborhood.

For 25 years Modern Times Books in the Mission District has handled books and publications that chain stores such as Crown Books or B. Dalton wouldn't touch. It is also a meeting place for artists, poets, and social activists, not to mention book junkies.

A quick glance at this year's list of Modern Times fifty best sellers says a few obvious things about the reading habits of the store's customers. The high concentration of books on Mexico and the Zapatistas, such as *Rebellion from the Roots* by John Ross and George Collier's *Basta!*, shows that for those interested in books about political upheaval or Latin America banned from such mainstream outlets as National Public Radio, his book outsold all others at Modern Times last month.

Interestingly enough, the book that tops the best seller list has nothing to do

with politics at all. According to David Madrugá, Modern Times' staff member, Dr. Weirde's *Guide to Mysterious San Francisco* is one of the biggest surprises on the list. "This was a totally out-of-left-field effort, self-published and done on desktop by this quirky neighborhood character," said Madrugá.

Books on the list outside the usual political curve reassure store co-founder, Michael Rosenthal, that not all Modern Times' customers are stuffy politicians. "Whenever someone buys a copy of *Ulysses* or *Kafka*, it gives me a lift," Rosenthal said. The lift gives a somewhat distorted view of customer tastes, according to Rosenthal, because the sales of the fifty titles on the list only amount to five-percent of the store's total sales.

Cultural theory and fiction far out sell other categories, but that isn't reflected in the list because the sales are spread throughout many titles.

"We see ourselves as an alternative for voices that would otherwise be unheard," said Rosenthal. "You can find people like Dorothy Allison in the small presses ten years before they break out. Stores like ours are places where different, challenging, alternative voices can develop. People in the Mission are awake, aware, and eager to find these voices."

Richard Rice

1. *Guide to Mysterious San Francisco*  
Dr. Weirde
2. *Rebellion from the Roots*  
Ross, John
3. *Basta!*  
Collier, George
4. *Teaching to Transgression*  
Hooks, Bell
5. *Liherating Memory*  
Zandy, Janet
6. *Coffee Will Make You Black*  
Sinclair, April
7. *The Shipping News*  
Proulx, E. Anni
8. *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*  
Garner, James
9. *Live from Death Row*  
Abu-Jamal, Mumia
10. *The Prosperous Few and Restless Many*  
Chomsky, Noam
11. *The CIA's Greatest Hits*  
Zezezauer, Mark
12. *First World, HA HA HA*  
Katzenberger, E.
13. *A Peoples History of the United States*  
Zinn, Howard
14. *Outlaw Culture*  
Hooks, Bell
15. *The Rohber Bride*  
Atwood, Margaret
16. *Growing Up Chicana/o*  
Lopez, Miranda
17. *50 Key Contemporary Thinkers*  
Lechte, John
18. *Paddy Clarke, HA HA HA*  
Doyle, Roddy
19. *Foacalt for Beginners*  
Fillingham, Lydia
20. *What Uncle Sam Really Wants*  
Chomsky, Noam
21. *Skin*  
Allison, Dorothy
22. *San Francisco Murals*  
Drescher, Timothy
23. *Bastard Out of Carolina*  
Allison, Dorothy
24. *The Place Where the Sea Remembers*  
Benitez, Sandra
25. *Lies My Teacher Told Me*  
Loenen, James
26. *Language Instinct*  
Pinker, Steven
27. *Coming Plague*  
Garrett, Laurie
28. *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*  
Freire, Paolo
29. *Rethinking Our Classrooms*  
Rethinking School
30. *500 Years of Chicano History*  
Martinez, Elizabeth
31. *Carrie's Strory*  
Weatherfield, M.
32. *EZLN: Documentos y Communiques*  
Garcia De Leon
33. *Sonar En Cuhano*  
Garcia, Christi
34. *Hyperspace*  
Kaku, Michio
35. *Unthinking Eurocentrism*  
Shohat, Ella
36. *Don't Believe the Hype*  
Chideya, Farai
37. *Racial Fault Lines*  
Almaguer, Tomas
38. *Art & Lies*  
Winterson, Jean
39. *Makes Me Wanna Holler*  
McCall, Nathan
40. *Re/Search: Guide to Bodily Fluids*  
Spinrad, Paul
41. *Tyranny of the Majority*  
Guinier, Lani
42. *So Far from God*  
Castillo, Ana
43. *Race Matters*  
West, Cornel
44. *Women Resisting AIDS*  
Schneider, Beth
45. *Reviving Ophelia*  
Pipher, Mary
46. *Como Agua Para Chocolate*  
Esquivel, Laura
47. *Always Running*  
Rodriguez, Luis
48. *House on Mango Street*  
Cisneros, Sandra
49. *City of Quartz*  
Davis, Mike
50. *Artist Way*  
Cameron, Julia



# SAN FRANCISCO STREET SECRETS

THE STORIES BEHIND SAN FRANCISCO STREET NAMES



DAVID B. EAMES

In his eminently readable *San Francisco Street Secrets: The Stories Behind San Francisco Street Names*, David B. Eames departs from the directory adopted by Louis K. Lowenstein in his exhaustive *Streets of San Francisco*. Eames book, lavishly illustrated with drawings, historic photos and maps, gives the origins of San Francisco street names in the course of a lively narrative history of the city (with persons, places and things from which street names are derived appearing in the text in boldface), from the days of the early Spanish explorers up to the disbandment of the second Committee of Vigilance in 1856, marking the "difficult transition from Gold Rush boom town to modern Metropolis."

There follows a section on the Fire and Earthquake of 1906 which, although not giving rise to many new street names (except for Funston which was named after General Frederick Funston who directed the City's fight against the great conflagration) did give us the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church St. When the Mission was about to be consumed in the fire this single hydrant still proved serviceable and produced enough water pressure to fight back the flames, an event commemorated with an annual gilding ceremony. Ralston Street is named after William Ralston whose magnificent eight-hundred-room Palace Hotel was so large a portion of the "damn finest ruins" of the 1906 disaster that it took 15,000 wagons to haul away the debris, which then became the land fill for Aquatic Park.

Eames is richly anecdotal and at his best when depicting the Gold Rush era and its many colorful inhabitants. Samuel Brannan, Mormon leader and emhezzler of church funds, respectable businessman and vigilante, lead a march down Montgomery Street in 1848 proclaiming

"Gold, gold, gold" while brandishing a whiskey bottle full of the yellow stuff. He started the Gold Rush but died broke. Brannan also published a newspaper, the California Star, the editorship of which city father Elbert P. Jones lost in a fist fight to Edward Kemble. Kemble's pugilistic prowess is not celebrated by a street name. We also hear the stories of the noble Liedesdorff whose heirs were swindled by the swinish Folsom, Green the thief and Broderick the fatally ineffectual duelist. Then there is Jasper O'Farrell who in laying out the city streets thought it would be a fine idea to make Market Street a very wide central arterial. This was done at the expense of the adjoining privately held lots, whose enraged owners ran generous Jasper out of town.

San Francisco has a robust, slightly shady biography commemorated in the names of its thoroughfares, byways and alleys. Eames has looked behind the names, and in the course of a quirky history tells many a well told tale. Five historical walks at the end of the volume provide residents with a new perspective on streets they've walked a hundred times, and non-residents with a city tour not in any guide book.

One final note of interest from *Street Secrets*. In 1847, engineer Jasper O'Farrell proposed curved streets conforming to the city's hillsides, but real estate speculators insisted on rectangular lots that could be more easily and profitably subdivided. The result, the city's trademark extremely steep hill climbs, and the unique transportation system invented because of them: the cable car.

*Street Secrets* can be found in bookstores throughout San Francisco or ordered from Gem Guides Books 315 Cloverleaf Drive, Suite F, Baldwin Park, California 91706.

Victor Miller

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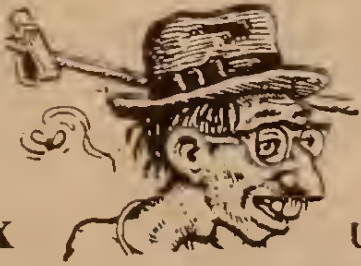
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## GUEST OPINIONS

ARE CURFEWS  
REALLY THE ANSWER?

by Eva Cutino

I believe that the proposed curfew law is nothing more than political grandstanding on the part of Mayor Frank Jordan. As a young person I know all about the things that young people do when they hang out. Not all teenagers are criminals; we resent people believing the stereotype that we are a bunch of criminals. It seems like the only way that people will listen to us is when we organize ourselves and gathering in protest. It is unfair laws like these that push youth to start up youth organizations like YMAC (Youth Making A Change) and StEP (Student Empowerment Program). These youth groups oppose the curfew and are working to stop it. I work with StEP.

StEP is a youth run organization that meets every Thursday at 2730 Bryant Street (RAP offices) on the second floor at 6:30 pm. On November 19, 1994, this youth organization culminated in a Northern California walkout. On that day, 10,000 students not only walked out of school, but blocked major freeways and highways such as Highway 1 (Watsonville), the 680 freeway (Concord), the 92 freeway (Hayward), and Route 17 (Santa Cruz). These actions were done to pressure the state into meeting the community and educational needs of the Raza population. We are taking action against the blaming of youth, migrants, and immigrants for creating the financial problems of the state.

Lupe Lopez, a walk-out participant, said "We are tired of being scapegoated by these elected people. Why don't they blame the rich white people who stole all of our taxes in the 1980s during the savings and loans scandals. I refuse to take the blame for the economic situation of the state. I'm ready to shout down my school until someone's ready to listen."

StEP stands for education and the empowerment of our Raza so that they know what's going on. We stand for uniting them in their struggle. This curfew is something we just don't believe in. This curfew will be scapegoating youth once again and criminalizing people for their age.

The curfew proposes that youth aged 17 and under should not be allowed out between midnight and 5 am, Friday through Sunday; nor will youths be allowed out between 11 pm and 5 am, Monday through Thursday. Violation of the curfew is a criminal offense resulting in youths being arrested, searched, sometimes handcuffed, and placed in police paddy wagons. The police then take them to the station where their parents are notified that their child has been picked up. If the parent or guardian does not

appear to pick up the youth, the minor will be handled as a status offender pursuant to police procedures. It makes our mere presence in public a crime. Is this the way we want San Francisco's youth to be treated? Like criminals?

People, it's not like we haven't tried this before. We had a curfew five years ago and it simply didn't work then. The curfew was challenged in 1988 because of the discriminatory way the curfew was enforced. It is my opinion that the majority of arrests resulting from this curfew will be made on minority youth who dress "like their looking for trouble" or don't seem to belong in a certain neighborhood. In 1990 the curfew was scrapped when the San Francisco Police Commission itself recommended the curfew be revoked. They were quoted as saying that the law, "cannot be enforced fairly" and "will increase the problems the Police Department already faces." The Board of Supervisors agreed and now the current curfew applies to only youth aged 13 and under. This curfew simply isn't needed. There is a lot of talk from Mayor Jordan about how great San Jose's curfew is; but, what he fails to mention is the downside.

San Jose's currently spends \$972,000 annually on their curfew program. San Francisco seeks to budget \$200,000, not even half of the needed money to run an effective program. San Jose officials say that since they installed their curfew, crime has gone down during curfew hours. But did you know that crime has gone up an equal amount during non-curfew hours? Do we really want to waste \$200,000 on a program that has no proof that it will work? Couldn't that money be used for something that will benefit the youth more effectively?

This curfew will fail to impact the social, political, or economic causes of youth crime. Proponents say that troubled youth will be referred to social services. But why must we arrest these youth to refer them to services? Violation of curfew goes on their record and enough violations can put them in a detention center.

The \$200,000 they propose to spend on the curfew would be better spent on educational, therapeutic, and recreational programs for youth, not on throwing innocent children in jail. Youth are already distrustful of police. Do we really want to widen the gap between them?

It is for all these reasons that I believe the curfew will not work. Young people should have rights, and how late we are allowed to stay out should not be made into the government's decision. Our parents' right to make that decision should stay just that, our parents' right. Police should be chasing down real criminals, not kids.

COMMUNITY BEACON:  
A LIGHT AT THE END  
OF THE TUNNEL

by Ethel Newlin

Maya Benton and Robert Campos, two bright young Mission activists-in-training attend the seventh grade at Everett Middle School. They recently met with Region IX Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Grantland Johnson, to discuss the need for a Community Beacon in the Mission. Benton and Campos are participants in the St. John's Educational Thresholds Center (SJETC) Community Bridges Collaboration, a program that brings a wide variety of educational, health and social services on-site at Everett.

Community Beacons offer a central location, and expanded hours, for afterschool services to students and families while making more efficient use of an existing resource...the school. Pioneered in New York City, Community Beacons are one of the concepts that Supt. of Schools Bill Rojas has wanted to bring to San Francisco. Only 30 grants

will be awarded throughout the entire United States and The Mission's application is the only one from San Francisco. Because of its unique blend of ethnic and socio-economic groups and its wealth of community service agencies, The Mission has an excellent chance of being selected for funding.

At the request of the SF Unified School District, SJETC submitted a proposal to the Federal Government to act as Lead Agency for the Community Beacon in The Mission. When funded, the site of this Beacon will be the Mission Complex schools, Sanchez Elementary, Everett Middle and Mission High Schools. SJETC received close to 100 letters of support for the Beacon (from students, school personnel, City officials and community organizations). More letters or phone calls to our Senators and Congresspeople would help make the proposal a working reality. To find out more about the Mission Community Beacon, or to add your support, contact Ethel Newlin or Ann Birnbaum at SJETC, 864-5205.

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## American Indian Community Update

by Dattel Jo King

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FORMS NATIVE AMERICAN TASK FORCE

In response to mounting concerns over inadequate social services and lack of city support for American Indians who reside in San Francisco, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urged the City's Human Rights Commission to form a Native American Task Force.

The resolution, introduced by Supervisor Willie Kennedy and passed unanimously by the Board, calls for the formation of a Task Force which will "frame issues, conduct a large scale public hearing, draft findings and recommendations and publish a report of the hearing."

The Task Force, which conducted its first meeting on May 10, consists of twelve representatives of San Francisco's American Indian community, members of several tribal nations including Ohlone, Lakota, Nez Perce, Navajo, Choctaw, Cherokee, Dakota, Sac and Fox, and Suquamish. HRC Commissioner Connie Bear King, a Hunkpapa Lakota, serves as chairperson for the task force. King is the first and only American Indian to serve as an advisor within the San Francisco city government. HRC Director Edwin Lee was also in attendance at the initial meeting.

During its first session, the Task Force outlined plans to evaluate the types of services available to Indians through the

City, as well as the manner in which the services are being provided. Committees are now being formed for a program evaluation through site visits and discussions with agency directors and staff members. The Task Force also plans to publish a report to the Board of Supervisors on their findings.



### POMO POWER

Always one of Pow Wow season's most popular events, this year's Stanford Pow Wow was no disappointment. In spite of periodic showers throughout the weekend, hundreds of campers still braved the mud and a myriad of dancers put themselves through their paces in full costume.

As the Pomo Dancers entered the rain-soaked arena, they announced that they would be dancing to bring out the sun. Half way through their routine, the clouds parted and the sun warmly illuminated the Pow Wow site, bringing smiles to all in attendance.



### CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ARTS

June will be the last chance to catch the Mixed Media Group Exhibit which has been on display at American Indian Contemporary Arts Gallery since April. This unusual show highlights the bold and beautiful works of such notable Native artists as Ryan Rice, Jodi Naranjo, Mary Ann Barkhouse, Tricia Irene Fragnito, David Bradley, Grey Wolf, and Jessie Cooday. While you are visiting the gallery, be sure to see the display of pottery and stoneware by Iroquois sculptor Peter Jones and the exquisite blown glass pieces of Isleta craftsman Tony Jojola.



### SILVER STAR POW WOW

The 8th Annual Silver Star Pow Wow, held each year at Oakland's Kaiser Convention Center will kick off this year with a concert benefitting AIFI on June 23.

Featured performers will include Jackie Bird, Robby Bee, and Lawrence Martin. The show will be hosted by Northern Exposure's Elaine Miles. Tickets run \$10-\$15. Pow Wow doors open Saturday, June 24 at 11:00 am. The event will continue on through Sunday, June 25 at 5:30 pm. Daily General Admission is \$2 and \$1 for seniors and youth. American Indian Film Institute is also looking for volunteers. Anyone wishing to donate time, or for more information on upcoming events, contact Theresa Marshall at 554-0525.



### NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH CLINIC

The San Francisco Native American Health Clinic on Julian Avenue in the Mission District, would like to invite all interested women to participate in their on-going Women's Talking Circle. The group will be meeting on June 22 to discuss Health Care issues that affect Native American women.

To help combat one such health problem, the clinic staff urges all women who are age 40 or older, who have no medical insurance and who are patients of the clinic to mark their calendars and plan to stop by for a mammogram on July 13. For more information contact Myra at the clinic at 621-8059.

Remember, early detection can save your life.

# The Roxie

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MONDAY, JUNE 5

### The World of Lenny Bruce Lenny

Evocative black and white photography and the eerie ambience of Lenny Bruce's nightclub netherworld create an unsettling picture of life at twilight time. Starring Dustin Hoffman and Valerie Perrine. Directed by Bob Fosse. B&W 35mm 112 mins 1974

Mon at 8:00

### Dance Hall Racket & Dream Follies

Two rare, 60-minute films written by and featuring Lenny Bruce! In Dance Hall, (1956) he's a sleazy gangster and in Dream Follies (1954), a cheeky burlesque hall farce, he spritzes the locals with his free-form jive! Both films directed by Phil Tucker. In 35 mm. Mon at 6:45 (Dream Follies) & 10:00 (Dance Hall Racket). These two prints courtesy of Johnny Legend!

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

### A Scopitone Extravaganza!

They're back! Those weird little puke box films from the early 60s featuring the likes of Nancy Sinatra, Dion, The Exciters, Bobby Vee, and tons of other American and international pop stars! Don't miss out! Our thanks go to Sam Wasserman and Wade Wright for their help in putting together this show. Tue at 7:00 and 9:15

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 7 & 8

### Twitch & Shout



Tourette Syndrome is a genetic disorder that can cause a bizarre range of involuntary movements, obscene vocalizations and compulsions. Research has begun to unravel its secrets nonetheless, people with TS must contend with a society that often sees them as crazy or bad—and a body and mind that won't do what it's told. Twitch & Shout provides an intimate journey into the startling world of Tourette Syndrome, allowing the viewer to stare, to make contact, and ultimately to understand some of the people living with it. Produced and directed by Laurel Chiren. Color, B&W 3 1/4" Video 60 mins 1994 USA. Plus a short film to be announced U.S. Theatrical Premiere. Director Laurel Chiren in person for all evening shows! Wed at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; Thur at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

FRIDAY, JUNE 9-THURSDAY, JUNE 15

### Ermo

"Stirring... Poignant and Hilarious!"

—Duane Byrge, Hollywood Reporter



We first meet Ermo selling noodles at the local market. We get a glimpse of the tenacity and determination of this middle-aged Chinese woman as she hawks her wares. Meanwhile, her home life is unsatisfying. Her husband is increasingly ineffectual in his role as village leader, and she must compete with the television set next door for her son's affection. On a trip to town, Ermo spies the only thing that could win back the love of her family and the villagers' respect—a twenty-seven inch color TV set! Ermo is an exploration into the dark side of capitalism, Ermo loses her blood, her health, and her family trying to get something that she does not need. Starring Alia, Liu Peiqi, Ge Zhijun. Directed by Zhou Xiaowen. Subtitled Color 35mm 93 mins 1994 China. Premiere! Nightly at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00; Sat, Sun, Wed mats at 2:00 and 4:00.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16-THURSDAY, JUNE 22

### Movements Of Desire



On a train to Vancouver Catherine gets to know Vincent. Little by little, they are transported into a world where dreams and reality are blended, drawing them irresistibly toward an as yet unknown destination. Movements Of Desire shows the unfurling and blossoming of a passion between two people who thought they had lost the ability to open themselves to such powerful and unexpected emotions. Starring Valerie Kaprisky, Jean-Francois Pichette, Johanne L'Allier Matteau. Written and directed by Lea Pool. In French, with English subtitles. Color 35mm 92 mins 1994 Canada/Switzerland. U.S. Theatrical Premiere Nightly at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; Sat, Sun, Wed mats at 2:00 and 4:00

FRIDAY, JUNE 23-THURSDAY, JUNE 29

### Sister My Sister



Madame Danzard and her daughter Isabelle live in the exquisite manse they share in the quiet town of Le Mans. Their two servants, sisters Christine and Lea, are the envy of their neighbors. The atmosphere in the house becomes increasingly claustrophobic, fueled by Madame Danzard's uneasy awareness that the close relationship between her two maids has taken on a new dimension. It is beyond even her imagination to understand the sexual fever that now exists between the two girls. Tension between the four women escalates to the boiling point, and an act of shocking violence erupts! Based on Jean Genet's The Maids. Starring Julie Walters, Joely Richardson, Jodhi May. Directed by Nancy Meckler. Color 35mm 89 mins 1994 Great Britain. U.S. Theatrical Premiere! Nightly at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; Sat, Sun, Wed matinees at 2:00 & 4:00



# THE RITES OF SPRING

PHOTOS BY EUGENE KETTNER

## SPRING CLEANING



These happy folks, members of the 16th Street Neighborhood Association, have carried the time honored tradition of Spring Cleaning beyond simply clearing out the old garage. The Association's April 29th cleanup drive involved the efforts of about 30 local residents who removed 45 bags of trash from the 16th Street area. Afterwards volunteers were treat to a barbecue at the Maria Alicia Apartments.

## MOTHERS DAY



Over 150 young people and their families and friends held a Mother's Day Peace in Park Celebration, that due to bad weather was held indoors at Buena Vista School Auditorium. The May 13th event featured music, games, speakers from the Interfaith Peace Campaign and raffles, as seen above, for trips to Reno and tickets to the unpacific movie Die Hard: Do or Die. This event is part of an ongoing campaign to create a counter-gang culture of peace.

## CINCO TRADITIONAL



The Cinco de Mayo parade down Mission Street drew thousands of onlookers.

## CINCO WITH A TWIST



Cinco de Mayo at Esta Noche featured traditional elbow bending and nontraditional gender bending. Above are three indulgers in both, Carla Gay, Mitzi Lee and Ronnie Salazar.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN JUNE

**Enterprise Community** - This meeting will determine the future of the Mission's innovative economic development program. June 20 Horace Mann School at 23rd and Bartlett at 6:30 pm. Call Meagan Levitan at 554-6498 for details.

The 16th Street Neighborhood Association will meet on June 8 at the Columbia Park Boys Club 450 Guerrero at 8:30 am. Agenda items include the October Celebration, a small business forum and Guerrero House and on June 22 at Centro del Pueblo 474 Valencia at 6 pm to discuss the above topics and funding for the arts. Call 522-9355 for details

The Community Peace Initiative (CPI) is a broad based Mission Coalition working to reduce violence with focus clusters meeting on different organizing areas.

Health And Human Services Cluster will not meet until July 10 from 5-7 pm at Cesar Chavez School.

Culture of Peace Cluster meets on June 13 at 4 pm at Mission Police Station at 17th and Valencia.

For information on the Education and Culture or the Economic Development Clusters or CPI in general call 824-2330.

The Mayor's Mission Taskforce has a number of committees covering a wide range of Mission District concerns. For full information call 285-5950

The Economic and Employment Development Committee meets June 6 at 7 pm at 820 Valencia St.

The Public Safety Committee meets June 14 at 7:30 pm at Mission Police Station at 17th and Valencia

The Health and Social Service Committee meets June 5 at 7 pm at 820 Valencia

The Youth, Education and Recreation Committee meets June 7 at 820 Valencia

The full Taskforce meets the first Thursday of every month at the Mission Playground Recreation Room at 7 pm

TO INCLUDE YOUR ORGANIZATION IN THIS LISTING MAIL INFORMATION TO NEW MISSION NEWS 777 VALENCIA, SF, CA 94110 OR FAX US AT 695-2838. THE DEADLINE IS THE 20TH OF THE PRECEEDING MONTH.



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# MYSTERIES OF THE ROSE

by Victor Miller

Like a good DJ a good second hand store has to get the mix just right to keep the booty moving. Lay down the wrong tunes or the wrong recycled goods, you wind up with a pretty dead scene; hit the blend that's in sync with the surroundings and it all comes together.

Andrewtroj Engels, proprietor of Second Hand Rose, appears to be the new master mixer in the land of the second hand. In a neighborhood that seemed stuffed to the rafters with the previously owned, where just one more rack of hawaiian shirts or another fifties style Ozzie and Harriet dinette set would precipitate some sort of cosmic upheaval throughout the whole Greater Valencia Valley of Junque, Engels has found the right mix. Second Hand Rose, located just east of Valencia on 18th Street, has not only survived but thrived through it's first year of business.

It's hard to say exactly what gives the Rose its peculiar draw for chronic browsers of used merchandise such as myself. There's sort of a zen koaness to these things that simply is and is not subject to explanation. But beyond that central mystery, the Rose has some very definable virtues that explain its success.

While not being one of those pricey and pristine collectable shoepees, you can get vintage collectibles there but amid the discreet charm of creeping chaos. While the Rose is not one of those utilitarian flea market tool bin affairs, you can get some pretty serviceable home improvement implements and small appliances. Microwave ovens go for \$28 to \$40. There's lots of furniture, and unlike some places it turns over rapidly, that may be because 40% of the Rose's clientele consists of other dealers, who happily cart away the bargains to be marked up at less-than-bargain prices at less rosey locations.

In its 2,500 filled-to-bursting-point square feet of space the Rose has taken

the best aspects of each of its competitors and crammed them into one zany location. An upper level in the back leads to the 50 cent book and record room, and the troglodytic stereo component nook, where prices are usually under \$25. And there's none of that vintage clothing hype,

Human Jukebox, a noted San Francisco street artist, whose ancient pickup drops off found and finagled artifacts on a regular basis. "I bring Joe every piano I find on the street," A.H. Jukebox said.

"How many pianos can a person possibly find on the street," I asked Casetina.



Purveyor of the previously owned Andrewtroj Engels.

Photo by Eugene Kettner.

the Rose has cool old clothes that sell for old clothes prices; leather jackets are all \$15. A wide selection of movies on tape is another pleasant surprise. I picked up all the Star Trek movies, except the last one, for \$50.

But if the dealers buy from the Rose, who does the Rose buy from? Well, estate sales, flea markets, various folks in the neighborhood who come by the store and certain "sources" that Engels and long time partner Joe Casetina were reluctant to reveal. But at least one of those "sources", is none other than the Automatic

"Only two this year, things have been slow out there," he deadpanned.

They get the stuff from anywhere and everywhere.

Engels gave another reason for the store's immediate popularity: politeness. "We try to be as friendly as possible, some

places you go in people almost spit on you." Engels and Casetina were both born north of the Mason-Dixon Line, but a long stay in New Orleans, where they operated a bed and breakfast left them with "y'all" drawls and a southern courtesy that has played well with customers.

The Rose sees an average of 100 shoppers a day. That number will undoubtedly go up on the first of the year when the Rose will go multi-level, opening up a 3,000 square foot bargain basement. This should come in handy, especially if A.H. Jukebox continues to find pianos on the street, another rickshaw goes up for sale, or somebody wants to unload another San Francisco streetcar front.

Not everything gets sold however. Engels says since they've been open, they've donated almost \$10,000 worth of merchandise to charities such as the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing in terms of the Mission Mean Streets Factor that most local businesses have to deal with in one way or another. Engels had to face down one or two clusters of street corner skells before the location could settle into its current atmosphere of charming funkiness.

On the weekend of June 17th and 18th Second Hand Rose, the latest jewel in the crown of San Francisco Junkdom, will celebrate its first anniversary with a super sale and live entertainment headlined by the Automatic Human Jukebox. Go for it bargain hunters.

Second Hand Rose, located at 3469 18th St. (between Mission and Valencia), is open from 11 am to 7 pm everyday except Monday.

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# ADIOS, ANA

## MISSION DISTRICT ARTIST OF THE 'SPIRIT RETURNS TO HER ROOTS

by Bob Parks

Imagination can make a heaven of a hell. To live and raise a family on Lilac Street--which would do well to have a few lilacs on it--you have to have a lot of imagination. Until recently, artist Ana Fernandez lived on this cramped alley near 24th Street. But her apartment inside was decked out like a heaven, with brightly colored walls, music, places for her and her children to draw and paint, and sunlight from the huge windows. A red staircase led up to a drawing she had made of an angel, stretched to the ceiling and lit from behind.

Fernandez left her Mission enclave in May to live in Quito, the capitol of Ecuador, where she was born. Her husband Miguel, also originally from Ecuador, will soon follow her, bringing the rest of the family's belongings to their new home. She just finished showing some of her work in "Another Life Up Inside Her Head," an exhibit of Chicana and Latina artists at Galeria de la Raza. And, for the last several months, readers of the New Mission News saw her drawings (similar to the light and beautiful angel in her apartment) on the pages of this paper. She says she likes The City and her neighborhood, but she's decided to take her talents and imagination back to Ecuador after ten years away.

"I got tired of missing it so much. I'm attached to that land not only because of my family and friends there, but actually the land itself--the mountains, ocean, and beach. I also want to show my work in Ecuador. It has a big connection with the people there, with the spirituality there."

From her two pieces at Galeria de la Raza, it's easy to see that spirituality is at the core of her work. "San Diego" is seven pieces of wood, connected and painted with shades of red and black, presented in a retablo with religious paraphernalia,

glass, mirrors, nails, flowers, and antique photographs of her family. A retablo is a Latin-American tradition of painting that is devotional and sometimes created with

her art--especially her older child, Amina, who is seven. "Sometimes Amina gets an idea from me, but a lot of times I get ideas from her. We go back and forth."



"El Dios" Photo by Eugene Kettner

prayers for the sick, hoping they get well. Dolls made of bread (resembling day-of-the-dead dolls, but from Ecuador) also decorate the surface of Fernandez's retablo.

"My influences are the popular religious art from Ecuador, but a big influence for me has been the paraphernalia of religion from everywhere: from Africa and from the American South. One influence has been two African-American women, [the mother/daughter team] Betty and Allison Saar," she explains.

Some of her influences are also personal and closer to home. Her children, for example, have made a big impact on

The artist's favorite piece is "El Dios," the whitewashed torso which also made an appearance at Galeria de la Raza. Objects of religious significance are stuck into "El Dios," along with nails and personal references, such as a game of tic-tac-toe scratched into its surface. She is excited by the direction in which "El Dios" is pushing her: "There are a lot of other pieces coming out in that same line."

In the curatorial essay for the show, Amalia Mesa-Bains praised Fernandez's work, saying that her use of the body as a place for holding religious images and objects was "a critique of colonial religiosity and indigenous domination." But while

the artist uses references to Christ's pain and Christian mortification of body--a non-indigenous tradition--the objects imbedded in the torso and head of "El Dios" show that the artist's focus is not only critical. Her pieces also affirm the continued power of the non-indigenous symbols in Latino culture, as well as to holistic spirituality and day of the dead. Some references in her work belong to neither tradition: these are personal, as she plays at drawing the map of her thoughts and preoccupations. Despite criticism from the San Francisco Chronicle that "Another Life Up Inside Her Head" was "too narrowly self-involved, personally and culturally," Fernandez's contribution showed viewers that the personal references were deliberate. (And perhaps that newspaper should have been tipped off by the self-awareness implied in the show's title.) "That's a mainstream way of saying this is just Latino and Chicano women's art," said Fernandez when she heard of the Chronicle's remarks. "Anyway, women's art is always personal--more than men's art."

\*\*\*

There are complex reasons why Ana Fernandez wanted to leave. To some degree, it seems imagination wasn't enough to make this country her heaven. "I wanted to be with my family and I also miss the closeness with the people. I'm a foreigner and I've gotten tired of being a foreigner. Although this City's full of foreigners, sometimes it's difficult."

Although she was a resident of the United States, as a Latina, Fernandez said she sometimes felt like a second-class citizen. She knows this is very different from living in Ecuador. "I grew up in a place where I was never discriminated against, ever. I didn't appreciate being discriminated against [in the U.S.]. That's a big difference from [Ecuador]. Maybe I'm spoiled here. It's true--so what."

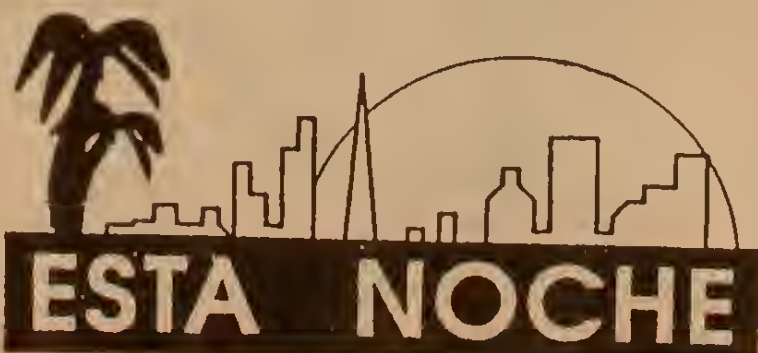
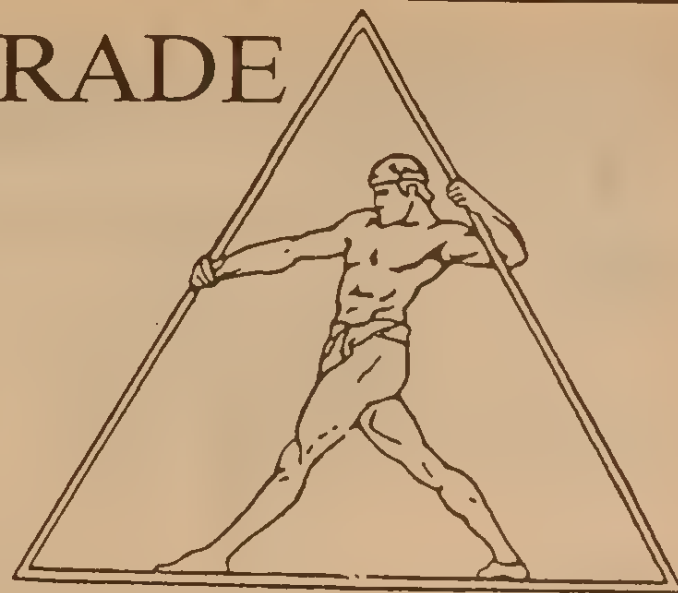
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# TWO STEPS FORWARD: METEM-PYSCHOSIS IN THE MISSION

by L. Newman Gonzales

Theater Artaud hosts a local collaboration of international talent, June 7-11, with Rainbow theatre's "Crossing/Cruzando" and the world premier of "The Wild Party" from Shadowlight. "Crossing," directed by Chilean dramatist Carlos Barón, is performed by San Francisco State's multicultural theatre workshop students. It defines xenophobic realities and illusions inspired by Prop.187 and The Contract with America, and features music by Ronaldo Rosario and Manuel "QuiQue" Dávila.

"The Wild Party," Directed by Shadow Master Larry Reed and based on Joseph March's 1928 classic, is cinematic in scope. Reed works with Co-Producer Veronika Husle and 20 collaborators to manipulate shadow characters, designed by Argentine artist Hugo Martinez, that are projected onto a 30' x 15' screen. Featured is original music by jazz guitarist Bruce Foreman.

Barón, inspired by Reed's 1994 production "In Xanadu," wanted to introduce shadow-play into "Crossing." Reed enthusiastically collaborated on a treatment of a poem by Puerto Rican Poet Victor Hernandez Cruz which Barón included in the play.

"Shadow gives an archetypal power to imagery that is something more than what a person can be -it's also less in a certain way, because you're only seeing the shape of things," says Reed. "It's as if the movie camera had never been invented and the viewer is engaged in a psychological way. So, we try to play and enhance what's powerful."

Barón believes the plays are connected by the issues of interpersonal and

social relationships, where so much is hidden in shadows of perception. "Also, both plays are based on what we consider 'good' literature," he said. "Wild Party" inspired William Burroughs to start writing, and "Crossing" combines new material with timeless pieces by well known writers.

Chilean artist René Castro, who designed the masks used in the shadow segment of "Crossing," was fascinated by the freedom of expression students discovered working in shadow; "When you're freed from the divisions of race, gender and ethnicity, that are so profound in this society, then you're allowed to develop an art form that leads to unity."

"There's a theatrical element that lights and shadows provide that gives an extension to the issues, which challenge the students to match it with their own projection of personal experience," said Reed. "We're also bringing a professional level collaboration into the student's consciousness, which is not an everyday scholastic opportunity." Nor is it an everyday occurrence for an audience.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Crossing/Cruzando" plays June 7 and 8 at 8pm.

General admission: \$8, Students: \$5, Ages 16 & under: Free.

\*Special free matinee for middle and high school students, June 8 at 11am.

"The Wild Party" plays on June 9 and 10 at 8pm & 10pm and June 11 at 7pm. General Admission: \$15, Students/Seniors: \$10, Backstage seating: \$25.

\*Special benefit "wild party" after Saturday night's performances at 111 Minna Street, starts at 10pm. Tickets available through the Theater Artaud Box Office: \$35.



A scene from the "Wild Party". Photo by René Castro.



Carlos Barón, René Castro and Larry Reed. Photo by René Castro.

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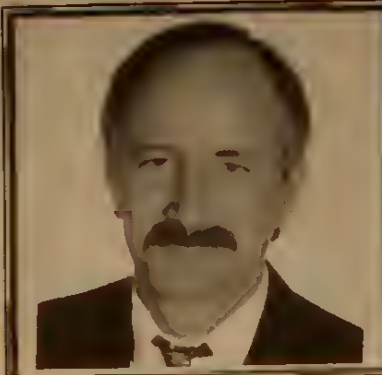
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## CHIROPRACTIC NOTEBOOK

By: Dr. Ross Williams

### THE DIGESTIVE MACHINE

How often do we stop to consider the amazing machine we call our body? Home to mind and soul, this self regulating, self repairing mechanism is constantly in motion, flawlessly preforming millions of actions and reactions every second of our lives. Pumping and filtering blood, digesting food, regulating enzymes, activating muscles, stimulating nerves and creating our very thoughts.

What orchestrates this veritable symphony of life?

It takes little thought to walk, talk or shake a friends hand. Yet we must first think to do these "conscious" things. The thought creates the action. The message is carried over the nerves to the body and viola' we walk, talk and shake hands. This is the conscious control of our bodies via the spinal nerves.

But what of the millions of "unconscious" things we do each moment to maintain balance and health in our bodies? Heart beat, digestion, respiration, liver function, kidney function, acid balance, temperature control and the multitude of other actions essential to life and health.

How do we so perfectly coordinate and control these subconscious tasks? Without the help of our thoughts the autonomic (or automatic) nervous system is constantly at work striving to achieve balance and maintain health for us. The autonomic system has two nerves that go to each and every part of your body. They are the sympathetic and parasympathetic nerves. One nerve speeds things up and the other slows things down. This is how your body systems maintain just the right balance.

Lets take for example your amazing stomach.

Over the next 365 days you will dump a truck load of groceries into you stomach, about 3 1/4 pounds a day on average. In an average lifetime you will bombard your quart sized stomach with over 50 tons, or 100,000 pounds of food! This food will be chewed, mixed and swallowed. It is then moved by a series of coordinated muscular contractions through the esophagus to the stomach and is then pushed another 30 feet through the intestines and colon. All under the coordinated action of your autonomic nervous system.

How then does your stomach know exactly how much hydrochloric acid to pour in and when to stop? When functioning properly your autonomic nerves tell it. They speed up the flow of acid when needed and turn it off when done.

Spinal problems can cause the stomach's autonomic nerves to be over- or under- stimulated. Overstimulation causes too much acid to be delivered, resulting in acid indigestion and eventually even peptic ulcers. Too little acid delivered results in constipation, poor digestion and other digestive health problems. Such problems are a sure sign that the delicate balance of the nervous system is out of whack.

Chiropractic is the art and science of finding and fixing problems in the spine which interfere with the bodies ability to maintain balance and health.

Dr. Williams is in private practice in San Francisco. He can be reached at 826-1000.



## THE COCONUT CHRONICLES

PART III

### LOW CLASS

by Cecilia Berber

In order to be white, you have to practice.

For me growing up, that meant having white friends and going to private schools. And when we could, because my father was a prosperous merchant, moving to a white neighborhood.

I was punished the first time I brought home a friend of color--it didnt matter that she was smarter than me, that her manners were better than mine. My parents made no exceptions to their racism:

"We move to a nice neighborhood, and you bring them here?"

My parents were afraid of what our nice, white neighbors would think. Being white automatically conferred "niceness" upon them. But in fact, there was an embezzling politician right next door, a dirty old man across the street, and a doctor who incested his daughter just a few doors up the street.

I was sent to an exclusive girls high school. The process of my assimilation was apparently working because I was suspicious of a clique of Latinas. Didn't they know hanging out with eachother emphasized their color?

They were suspicious of me, too. I think they felt somewhat superior to me because they shared a strong Latin identity. They knew what I missing. No doubt on some level they also knew the damage pretending I was white was doing to me.

Perhaps as a result of my cultural confusion, I had no niche in that school. I was unpopular. I made friends with another coconut and a couple of Italian outcasts--white enough to earn my parents approval, yet with families and households

not all that different from my own: warm, messy, generous, and loud.

When I started having boyfriends it was just fine when I brought home white boys. But when a nice Mexican guy came home with me, my mother had a fit. Whatever her complaint was I didn't remember, but I sensed the real reason was because he was Mexican. Worse yet, his father was our electrician.

My niece became involved with a Mexican boy who was putting himself through school to be an architect. He treated her well and they adored eachother, so I was stunned when my brother said, "I wish she'd break up with him. I dont know why, I just don't like him. And I can't stand it when his parents call me 'cunado.'"


My nieces boyfriend was handsome, ambitious, hard-working and well educated. He was also dark and spoke with an accent. His parents were nice enough, as far as I could tell. I couldn't imagine why my brother didnt like that family. Finally I figured out it was because my brother considered them to be "low class" Mexicans.

I still can't tell what a "low class" Mexican is. Much less do I care. Is it the cholos and pachucos? If that's not living, cultural art I don't know what is.

Are they simply poor, working-class Latins? Or could it be the people who haven't tried very hard to assimilate, for whom blue and pink collar jobs and even labor are just fine, who dont speak good English--which a lot of people associate with being ignorant? Could it be Latinos to whom it never occurred to be ashamed of their culture?

Madrecita de Guadalupe, make me a low class Mexican!! Viva la Raza! And keep up a strong sense of self worth.





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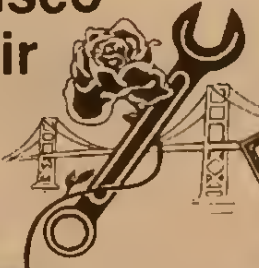
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## THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR...

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

The opinion in this particular column comes with a disclaimer: I don't advocate the violent overthrow of the federal government. The moment I shoot a bullet or explode a bomb over nationalistic ideology or idiocy, I have lost the battle, the war, the revolution because I'll have become like those "jack booted thugs" who call themselves federal agents. I do believe the fed government ought to be supplanted. Writing this may mean my phone gets tapped--again--after a blissful fifteen year hiatus away from party line telephoning (the feds, my friends and me). But, hey, maybe at least one agent will get another day job because he/she gets a change of heart, as well as a heart, by eavesdropping the conversations. Cool.

These are really perplexing times. Perplexing because sometimes I hear things come out of Republican mouths that almost make sense to me, like abolishing the IRS, a nest of verminous thugs who do as they will without appeal or redeeming social value. I say "without redeeming social value" because most of the money they collect doesn't go to social welfare but to military might and fed provocateurs who infiltrate dangerous organizations like ACT-UP. There's an old seventies saying: It'll be a great day when our day care centers have all the money they need and the navy has to hold a bake sale to buy battle ships.

My old antagonists, the NRA, use

"jack booted thugs" to describe the very same people I consider to be the dangerous elements in our society: federal agents. It's weird that we share the same concern about what happened at Wac(k)o. There the feds go again lying about their own terrorism. They claim that the Koresh group was killed by their leader. Yeah right, except the fire coincided with the most favorite of fed tactics: pumping so much tear gas into a building that a fire burns, silences and terrorizes so thoroughly that everybody watching gets real quiet hoping we're not next. I watched the feds do this with the Symbionese Liberation Army and a leftie cooperative group in Philadelphia. Same tactics, different targets.

I'm momentarily confused by the linkages. There's a rumor that the Unabomber may be an old SLA fugitive; F. Lee Bailey is one of OJ's lawyers who was the main man for the public dunking of Patricia Hearst, associated with the SLA. Nineties right rhetoric sounds like seventies left rhetoric. Then when I come to my senses, what I see is this. There are three major media events this year: the OJ Simpson trial, the Oklahoma City bombing and the Unabomber. They seem like very separate events. They're not. They're all hyped media sitcoms that keep us glued to our TVs. There's something oddly captivating about violence and terror. Go a little deeper. Each of us sees ourselves in at least one of the major characters, the perpetrator or victim, sometimes both.

These events, if disbelief is momen-



tarily suspended, are intentionally staged government acts of terrorism to divert our attention as it moves to have its totalitarian way with the populous (us). Hitler once said: One act of government terrorism deters hundreds of thousands of acts of insurrection. We have three acts of terrorism to silence a very wide range of troublemakers: brown people, women, far right, paramilitaries, heartlanders, everyday schmoe bureaucrats, lefties, vets, farmers and cigarette smokers (who are dangerous because we aren't susceptible to propaganda campaigns).

While we're distracted and confused, we're being robbed of our rights. The embezzlement has been going on for a while but it's accelerating; these events are tactical diversion so we won't notice until it's too late that this really is and has always been a fascistic government.

There's talk of taking bomb making instructions off the Internet and banning paramilitary publications without ever once acknowledging that Timothy McVeigh learned about bombs, in fact received paid training, from the military not the Internet or paramilitary groups or even the New World Liberation Front. He got his killing ways from the Persian Gulf War.

My mantra through the danger is this. Be(a)ware. There are government conspiracies against the people. Make the feds' job as difficult for them as possible: commit nonviolent acts of insurrection and random acts of kindness; don't talk to the fed agents; stop watching those damned TV news programs with their subliminal messages, read newspapers instead; be creative and noisy; pay attention to means and ends. Seek the source of our

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Thursday, June 8th  
**Will Roscoe**  
*Queer Spirits*  
A Gay Men's Myth Book  
The hidden heritage of gay ways of being and seeing in religion, mythology and folklore.

**Straight Parents Gay Children**  
Keeping Families Together

**Robert A. Bernstein**  
Herald Tribune, Robert M. La Follette

Thursday, June 22nd  
**Bob Bernstein**  
*Straight Parents Gay Children:*  
Keeping Families Together  
An inspiring testament by the national vice president of P-FLAG (Parents-Friends of Lesbians & Gays)



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**THRU JUNE 30** - "Layers", photography by MOMO. Eighteen selections from Quiet Explosion. **EXPOSED** 425 South Van Ness St., Gallery

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6:30pm, Sat by appointment. Call 487-9996.

**EVERY MONDAY** - "Life Drawing", A studio for beginning and experienced artists who wish to draw from male and female models. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center 348 Precita Ave., 7-9:30pm, \$5 per session, or \$30 for 10 sessions. Call 285-2287.

**EVERY TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY** - "Youth Arts", a workshop for youth (ages 10-18) interested in exploring their creativity through painting, drawing, and airbrush art. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center 348 Precita Ave., 7:30-9pm, \$5 per session, or \$30 for 10 sessions. Call 285-2287.

**EVERY THURSDAY** - "Toddlers' Art" for children 18 months to 5yrs. to explore possibilities of art through tactile and visual projects. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center 348 Precita Ave., 10:30-11:30am. Call 285-2287.

**THURSDAY-SATURDAY** - "Alter Altar", 6/15 - 7/15. An alternative queer show of ritual objects and installation. Opening reception with music held Thursday 6/15, 7:30-9:30pm. Collision 417 14th St. Weekly Hours: Thurs. 5-8pm, Fri. & Sat. 1-4pm.

**EVERY FRIDAY THRU 6/23** - "The Associates", sketch comedy and monologues created by Liz White, directed by Andrea Devaux. The Bindles-

tiff Theatre 185 6th St., 10:30pm, \$8. Call 974-1167.

**EVERY FRIDAY** - "The Domino Effect", a visual response to the 104th Congress, by Transom Artists Project. Presented by Folsom St. Interchange, a new neighborhood art space "for cultural dialogue articulated through art." Opening Party at 6pm, Saturday 6/3. Folsom St. Interchange 2408 Folsom St. Gallery Hours: Fridays 11am-4pm, or by appointment.

**EVERY SATURDAY** - Family Storytime, 11:00am. Storytime for Children in Spanish, 12:00 noon. Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th St. Call 695-5090.

**TUESDAY - SATURDAY** - "(RE)GENERATION: THE QUEER EXHIBIT", opens June 20th, an exhibit of gay/lesbian members of the emerging generation of Bay Area Chicano/Latino artists, co-curated by San Francisco artists Nao Bustamente and Eugene Rodriguez. Opening reception is on Saturday 6/24, 3-6pm. Galeria de la Raza 2857 24th St. Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-6pm.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY THRU 6/17** - **THE PURPLE MOON DANCE PROJECT** presents "VESSELS", a new work in progress, as part of Dancer's Group/Footwork's Bread and Butter Series. Benefit for the company June 3 - \$20-\$25. Footwork 3221 22nd St., 8:30pm, \$10 advance/\$12 at the door. Call 824-5044.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY THRU 6/24** - "Nude Coffee", Chicago's hottest all female comedy group makes its San Francisco debut after a two year run at the Chicago Improv. Witty, wild, wacky women perform all original sketches. Exit Theater 156 Eddy St., 8pm, \$10 general/\$8 students and TBA members. Call (510)549-0624.

### THURSDAY, June 1

**WALTZES FOR THE DAYROOM:** Stephen Pelton Dance Company joins the work of New Zealan author Janet Frame with dance. The dancing poetry performed live by the Alternative Currents Performance Ensemble. Money raised benefits the S.F. based HIV/AIDS treatment information organization Project Inform. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida at 17th Street. Through Sunday June 4. 8 PM. \$12.50 Thursday and Sunday; \$14.50 Friday and Saturday.

### FRIDAY, June 2

**DEATH ON THE HIGHWAYS:** Wacky drug and auto safety films of the '70s. Enough red asphalt for any driving instructor or driver's ed. student. Showing *The Day I Died*, *The Last Prom*, *Then It Happened*, and *The 3rd Killer*. Fasten your seatbelt! ATA, 992 Valencia Street. 8:30 PM. \$5

### SATURDAY, June 3

**ORGAN CONCERT:** Pianist Charles Rus will perform classic and contemporary composers on the English Horn at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist. Worship service follows the concert. 15th and Mission Streets. 5 PM. FREE

**BACK TO THE PICTURE GALLERY:** Nicaraguan artist Otto Rojas exhibits new screenprint *Palo de Mayo*, (May Pole). Portion of art sales to go Laney College Art Gallery. 934 Valencia St. at 20th. 1 - 5 PM. FREE

**BRAZILIAN CELEBRATION:** See the dances of Brazilian brilliance—capoeira and maculele. Enjoy the live

Samba band. Fill up on Brazilian food and drink. Fundraiser for Abada Capoeira, bringing capoeira to the community. *The Women's Building*. 3543 18th Street. 8 - 11 PM. \$5-\$15, sliding scale.

### SUNDAY, June 4

**HOLY CROSS & PALO DE MAYO:** Saint Peter's Parish hosts a Mass and dance celebrating Holy Cross and Palo de Mayo with the famous group Volcanes and Salvadorean singer Ana Daisy. St. Peter's Church, 1200 Florida Street, between 24th and 25th Streets. 12 - 6 PM. \$5.

### MONDAY, June 5

**POETRY WORKSHOP AND LECTURE:** Poet Kimiko Hahn's hosts a three part residency including workshop, lecture, and then reading the following day (June 6). All levels of skill welcomed. *Intersection of the Arts*, 446 Valencia. Workshop, 1 PM; FREE. Lecture, 8 PM; \$5. \$3 members, students, seniors; Reading, June 6, 8 PM; \$5. \$3 members students, seniors

### TUESDAY, June 6

**WOMEN AND AIDS:** Women's AIDS Network (WAN) meets to discuss HIV University and Woman to Woman transmission of the virus. Lyon Martin Women's Health Services; 1748 Market Street. 9 - 11:30 AM. FREE

### THURSDAY, June 8

**BAY AREA RADICAL WOMEN:** General Meeting. Topic: Plans and strategies for revolutionary feminism for the last part of 1995. Valencia Hall, 523A Valencia Street. 7:30 PM. For more information: 415-864-1278 FREE

**WALKING IN TOKYO:**



Candid walk with a video camera, between San Francisco and Japan while Flint visits his birthplace, Tokyo. *ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM. \$5*

### FRIDAY, June 9

**ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, POLICE STATE:** The end product of an art experiment that began on May 4. Anonymously paired artists have worked on an expression piece; their theme: Police State. *ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM. \$5*

### SATURDAY, June 10

**LATINO/A GAY/LESBIAN/BI/TRANSGENDER ARTS:** 5th Performing Arts Show of Latino/a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Artists presented by LLEGÓ California and Mission Cultural Center for Latino Art. This year's theme adds a "voice to the call urging the General Assembly [of the United Nations] to add "sexual orientation" to Article 11 of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights" while the world watches San Francisco during the the City's celebration the UN's charter signing 50 years ago. *2868 Mission Street, near 24th. 8 PM. Runs through Sunday, June 11. \$15; \$7 for students, disabled, and unemployed.*

### SUNDAY, June 11

**WOMEN AND CANCER WALK:** The 4th Annual Women and Cancer Walk moves to raise money to fight cancer. Flyers and pledge forms are available at:

Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission  
Eichelberg's Bar, 2742 17th Street  
Modern Times, 888 Valencia  
Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia  
Red Dora's Bearded Lady, 485 14th Street  
Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia  
The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street

*For more information: 415-487-6224.  
Sharon Meadow of Golden Gate Park.  
11:30 AM.*

### MONDAY, June 12

**BOOK-SIGNING/READING: JUNGLEE GIRL** Author Gini Kamani celebrates the publishing of her short story collection, *Junglee Girl*. The book's stories tell the story of "women who by caste gender are deemed unfit as humans." Provocative, very provocative. *Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia Street. 8 PM. FREE*

### TUESDAY, June 13

**FULL EMPLOYMENT:** The "full employment" issue once had pivotal importance for framing a working society. Can this issue be resurrected to unify the country in these divisive times? Author Doug Dowd examines the full employment question. *New College, 777 Valencia Street. 7 PM. FREE*

### WEDNESDAY, June 14

**FAMILY FILM AT THE LIBRARY:** Unannounced "family film" at the library. *Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th Street. 7 PM. FREE*

### THURSDAY, June 15

**OUR NATURE TO SURVIVE:** Three poets—Margaret Sloan-Hunter, Alice Anderson, and Laura Irene Wayne—read about their diverse growth and experiences. *Changin' Livin' and Growin'. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st Street. 8 PM. \$3 - \$10, no one turned away.*

### FRIDAY, June 16

**SPEAK UP AND DANCE!:** Between spoken word and movement. The dance company Footloose performs this ongoing series which combines theatre and dance. *Shotwell Studios, 3252A 19th Street at Shotwell. Through June 18. 8:30 PM; Sunday, 7:30 PM/ \$8 - \$10; \$5 - \$10 Sunday.*

### SATURDAY, June 17

**SLUG MEETING:** All you want to know about home com-

post and rotting waste in your yard. *Alioto Paark. 10 - 12 PM. FREE*

### MONDAY, June 19

**HOME GROWN HITLERITES:** Part five of a summer workshop series dealing with fascism. This workshop focuses on American authoritarians and fascists. Sponsored by the Freedom Socialist Party. *Valenciu Hall, 523A Valencia Street. 7:30 - 9:30 PM. \$4; \$2 for low income.*

### TUESDAY, June 20

**PRESCHOOL FILM PROGRAM:** Films for preschool-aged kids. *Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th Street. 10 and 11 AM, 2 PM. FREE*

### WEDNESDAY, June 21

**LESBIAN AND GAY POETRY READING:** Poetry and prose from Gay and Lesbian authors. The Bay Area's only reading for Gays and Lesbians. People are invited to share their material. *Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia Street. 7:30 PM. FREE*

### THURSDAY, June 22

**FEEL LIKE DANCIN'** Dancers' Group/Footloose present *Local 7*, a showcase for dancers and performers. Featured performs: Chris Black, Elisabeth Crawford, Linda Daniel, Joseph Landini, Scott Lewellen, Rose McFadden, Aidan Thompspon/Tomo Nishio. *Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd Street. Through June 24. 8:30 PM. \$8*

**BLACK HISTORY AND SAN FRANCISCO:** Come and find out about black influences in San Francisco's history. Sponsored by San Francisco History Association. *Unitarian Center, MLK Room, Franklin and Geary Streets, 7:30 PM. \$5*

### FRIDAY, June 23

**GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF WHORES:** Sex Worker activist Scarlet Harlot host a film/video/discussion night on the issue of legalizing and legitimizing sex work. Films shown in two sessions; 7 PM: *Street Sex, Outlaw Poverty not Prostitutes, Portrait of Victoria*; 9 PM: *Prowling the Night, SWAM: Sex Workers Addressing MacKinnon, Free Whores*. Actual sex workers in person! Benefit for SWAC (Sex Workers Action Coalition). *ATA, 992 Valencia. 7 and 9 PM. \$5 Donation*

### SATURDAY, June 24

**SIT, ROVER, SIT!:** Bob Gutierrez, SF/SPCA animal behavior specialist, instructs dog owners why doggie misbehaves. Before you hit, take this class. *San Francisco SPCA, 16th Street. Every last Saturday of each month. 3 - 5 PM. \$5 donation*

### TUESDAY, June 27

**CALIFORNIA POETS IN THE SCHOOLS:** California Poets in the School (CPITS), a nonprofit, multi-cultural organization who help student poets celebrate their art, present three authors to read from their published works. Tobey Kaplan, Carolyn Lei-Lanilau, and Eleni Sikelianos are appearing this night. *Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia Street. 8 PM. \$3; \$2, members, students, and seniors.*

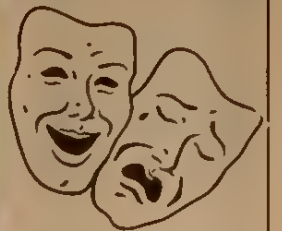
### THURSDAY, June 29

**FROM CABLE TO THE BIG SCREEN:** First of the series *Off the Wire*, a monthly meeting to get the "free access" cable shows to those who can't afford cable. Playing the video, *Who Gets Access* showing the current issues around public access such as censorship. *ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM. \$5 Donation*

### FRIDAY, June 30

**POSTMODERN SISTERS:** Explore the female body with these short videos, genital warts and incest survivors. Many more! *ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM. \$5 Donation*

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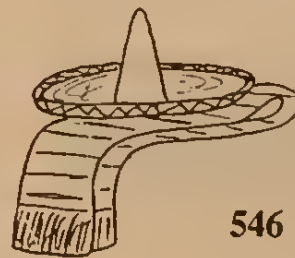
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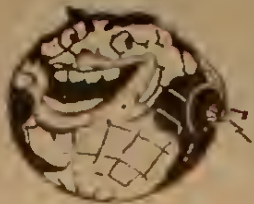


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## ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

### MACHETE AND CESPEDES

The San Francisco Bay Area has always been rich in musical talent; in particular, the Latin music scene here has given birth to many trend setting groups. Once known as the birthplace of Latin rock, with Santana and Malo, the Bay Area should be getting a reputation for serious Cuban music and Latin Jazz.

At the forefront we have two large local bands, John Santos & the Machete Ensemble and Conjunto Cespedes. Both of them have new albums out on the same record label- Xenophile.

Santos and Machete take us on a musical journey that starts off with the sound of sacred afro-cuban bata drums and moves through various Cuban styles with infusions of soul and enigmatic jazz. Santos, playing all manner of drums and percussion while wearing the producers hat as well, is joined by long time collaborator Rebeca Mauleon on keyboards and arrangements, John Calloway on flute, Wayne Wallace on trombone, Bill Ortiz on trumpet, Fania All Star veteran Orestes Villato on timbales and a whole host of other brilliant local musicians joined by world famous Cuban musicians Cachao on bass and Chocolate on trumpet for several tunes.

Check out the "bata-jazz" of Modupe and the "jazz-montuno" arrangement by Calloway on Zaire- a tribute to the musical influence of the African country.

Iracuba is Rebeca's tribute to Irakere and the best traditions of Latin jazz and her arrangement of Media Luna, a danzon featuring Cachao, is simply beautiful. Santos arranges a powerful tribute to timbalero Orestes Vilato entitled El Mago Vilato. La Patria del Son is a classic Cuban son montuno based on a poem about the origins of Cuban music written by Rebeca's father and provides a ten minute showcase for the talents of the band and their guests, Cachao and Chocolate. Machete is pushing the boundaries of Latin jazz- not afraid of trying out new ideas yet deeply connected to the roots of afro-Cuban music.

Conjunto Cespedes has recently given some rousing live performances at a major music festival in Lafayette, Louisiana and at their record release party here in San Francisco for their new CD entitled "Vivito y Coleando" ("Alive and Kicking"). Fronted by Bobi Cespedes' husky yet sonorous voice, anchored by a solid rhythm section and exuberant percussion base, punctuated by exaltant trombone and trumpet, Cespedes is equally adept at slow romantic boleros and scorching sones.

Their new album was produced with Santos at bassist Rob Holland's High Note Studios in Oakland and its' superb recording and mix should make the New York and Miami producers take notice. Jesus Diaz provides fiery drumming and percussion throughout, Wayne Wallace on trombone stretches out and contributes his brilliance to the arrangements, Guillermo Cespedes weaves the melodies on keyboards and tres and Bobi's voice remains powerful and sincere through the various moods.



The tunes are full of suprising and sophisticated breaks and smooth tempo changes. They have worked out some nice arrangements of the Cuban standards "Que Viva Chango," "Dolor y Perdon," and "Buenos Dias America". Musical Director Guillermo Cespedes contributes a cool jazzy son with a beautiful melody complementing the full band with three violins on "Dionisia". Check out the fierce propelling rumba "Cenizas" and contrast that to the sweet a capella prayer to

Yemaja, the mother goddess, on "Dibulonji"; personally my favorite is "Na' Ni Na" which switches tempo dramatically into a most soulful vocal and chorus.

Most of the musicians in both of these bands are experienced veterans and have performed and continue to perform in various configurations. With the arrival of Santos & Machete and Conjunto Cespedes on high profile, internationally released CD's they are finally getting what's due: respect due!



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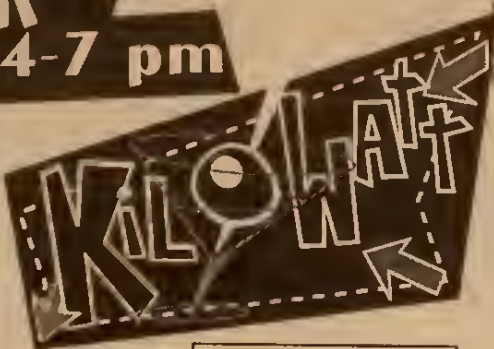
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# FATHER WAR

by Frank Stauf

Fifty years ago last month, my father threw away his uniform. He didn't want to, but the war was over. Germany had lost.

My father was four years old when Hitler came to power. His childhood coincided with Germany's transformation into a fascist state, which did not happen overnight. It wasn't until he was ten that my father was issued his first uniform, pledging his life to Fuhrer and Fatherland. He'd never had a father of his own; perhaps that's why he took the oath with such enthusiasm. As a member of the Hitler Youth, he was legitimized; he finally *belonged*. Not only that, he belonged to a winning team -- Germany having already annexed Czechoslovakia, Austria, and most of Poland. All the little boys wanted to be soldiers in those days.

Five years later, a lot of little boys were huddling in basements as American and British bombs rained down, but my father and his friends still wanted to be soldiers. Fourteen, fifteen years old, they soon got their wish. They were all issued *real* uniforms and guns and sent to Prague to help quell a partisan uprising there -- the grown-up soldiers being much too busy for that sort of thing, what with the Eastern Front and all.

By the time my father's group reached Prague, the Eastern Front was only a few miles away. The city was in panic; no commanding officer to be found. They were fleeing westward to escape the Russians, hoping to be captured by Americans instead. Of course, my father and his friends were utterly disgusted by this show of cowardice, this spineless lack of faith in the Fuhrer to bring Germany to final victory against all odds. Like other boys, they'd heard the rumor of the "Werewolves": a guerilla army said to be gathering in Bavaria to make a glorious last stand against the subhuman invaders of the Reich.

Reaching headquarters in Bavaria two

weeks later, seven boys on foot, exhausted and starving, heavily armed, they found no army of fanatical guerrillas to welcome them. Once again, the grown-ups let them down: S.S. men throwing away their splendid black uniforms in favor of civilian disguises, betraying their oaths to the Fuhrer just to save their own venal skins. The whole place was being evacuated; there would be no glorious last

Valhalla.

"All yours, boys, if you do a good job." The officer led them to another building, another room. "See these file cabinets? I want you to empty them out, take all the paper outside and burn every scrap of it."

Naturally, the boys obeyed. They were hungry for orders, any orders -- even hungrier for their reward. Once all the



stand -- or would there? An officer approached them, smiling, still in uniform.

"Come with me, boys, I have a job for you."

They followed him through a long dining hall, to a room full of the most exquisite treasure they had ever seen: fresh loaves of bread, wheels of yellow cheese, jars of marmalade and tubs of butter, bottles of red wine, sausages strung from the rafters like garlands in

papers were ash, the boys ate and drank, sang a few old marching songs, slept briefly, then loaded up a wagon with more wine and food and commenced pulling. They were the last Nazis to leave the compound, pulling that wagon of loot.

A few miles down the road, the roar of an American fighter plane made them take cover. From the hushes by the side of the road they watched the plane swoop low, spitting machine gun bullets in a long

strafe. They were used to this by now, but when the bullets hit the marmalade, and wine bled in the dirt, and sausage meat lay mangled in the dusty road, the boys did something Nazis weren't supposed to do: they cried like children.

Finally, the war was over. Future papa kept his uniform another month, hidden in his rucksack, then threw it away. Naziism wasn't dead, but it made sense to let it lay low for a while...

My father's son was eight years old when Richard Nixon came to power...thoroughly Americanized, a Californian, having watched enough American t.v. to be alarmed at finding my father's picture-postcard of Der Fuhrer in a desk drawer one day. In the picture, smiling Adolph sits upon a meadowy hillside with his arm around his dog, Blondi. I never mentioned finding it, but all through my teens and twenties we had screaming fights about the war, the holocaust, my father and I. He still believes the holocaust was a hoax, a Jewish propaganda coup. Since then, I have met people who lost most of their families in the camps, but I don't argue with my father anymore -- not about the camps, or Naziism, or politics in general. (Needless to say, he's a staunch Republican.) I'll never change his mind. He took an oath and never broke it. Nowadays we rarely speak.

So -- what should I do about Father's Day? Send a card? He is my father, after all...maybe I'll send him this. Or maybe not. It's only notes for the book I hope to write someday, stitched together from the bits and pieces he let slip from time to time, the truths and half-truths, like passing through Bergen-Belsen in the dead of night, "saw nothing but a bunch of barracks -- lies, all lies." Fist trembling around another drink, his ice cubes rattling.

I guess I'll call the novel "Fatherland", and hope it sells a million copies.

Ich bin ein Amerikaner.



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